

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 71

TUESDAY MARCH 11, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support a complete ban on smoking in restaurants, bars, and other public places in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BIG Offices

The Bridge Investment Group opened its new offices on Tinian with a ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Drugged H2O

A vast array of pharmaceuticals have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans.

NATION...Page 14



Acquitted

A Manila court Monday acquitted Imelda Marcos of 32 counts of illegally transferring wealth abroad.

ASIA...Page 15

Senate, House don't agree on SOCA venue. **PAGE 3**

Rioters in Nauru torch police station. **PAGE 7**

'LAPD misled LA judge, NMI'



Towing company staff prepare to flip an SUV with plate number ABW 999, which had turned turtle in front of Sugar King Park on Middle Road while police officers check on the Toyota Sienna CE van ABP 854 after a four-car collision yesterday afternoon. Other picture shows police officers investigating the severely damaged gold Toyota Echo and white Ford FISO pickup truck, which were stuck along the gutter.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



3 hurt, one seriously, in 4-vehicle smashup

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman was seriously injured while two others sustained minor injuries during a four-vehicular collision along Middle Road in front of Sugar King Park in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* that the woman with severe injuries was admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center. Her condition

See 3 HURT on Page 4

Evidence found that '88 warrant was cancelled last Feb. 25

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Celebrity attorney Mark Geragos has reportedly discovered evidence that the Los Angeles Police Department apparently misled an LA Superior Court judge and the CNMI government about the 1988 arrest warrant issued against Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura.

See LAPD on Page 4

Nun drowns at CK beach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Vietnamese nun drowned while swimming at the beach in Chalan Kanoa Sunday night.

Sr. Myriam Phan, 62, of the Sisters of Good Shepherd, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday at 3:55am.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that police received a report about an overdue swimmer at the beach site located behind Aquarius Beach Tower.

Ogumoro said that DPS Boating Safety Unit officers and officers from DPS Fire Division Search and Rescue Unit

See NUN on Page 4

i335 Bluetooth
weight 3.5 oz



SLIM & LITE

THINNEST & LIGHTEST PTT PHONE . VOICE DIALING . VOICE RECORDING
SIM CARD 600 CONTACTS . USB CONNECTOR . COLOR DISPLAY . GPS
JAVA APPS . SPEAKERPHONE . FREE HOLSTER



i290
weight 3.0 oz

Saipan - Guam Office:
888-8888
Tinian/Rota: 898-4259
www.icconnectsaipan.com

CONNECT

Local

NMC downgrade not surprising—McPhetres

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Agnes McPhetres, a former president of the Northern Marianas College and newly appointed member of the Board of Regents, said she is not surprised with the college's downgraded status.

"I was not surprised when I found out that the college was put on show cause. I did not expect it, but I was not surprised," said McPhetres.

She said that she had already started to see signs that the college was "going down" so the news came as no surprise.

McPhetres had been NMC's

longest serving president.

She said that during her tenure the college never went through a situation similar to the position it is in right now.

"As a matter of fact, accreditors called us the 'star college.' They were amazed with the kind of progress we had been making, especially for a small college," McPhetres said.

She said that the accrediting commission had also used NMC as a pilot for a baccalaureate program in a two-year college. She said no other college under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges had that type of status.

McPhetres believes the col-

lege's downgrading began when Dr. Kenneth Wright became its president and was caught in a pile of trouble with Project Gateway or the La Fiesta project.

"The mission of the college had become very different from the way Wright was trying to run the campus. There are rules and regulations from the commission. When you are trying to change campuses, you have to follow the process and a certain approach. Wright did not do any of those and that started to raise a red flag," McPhetres said.

Wright suddenly resigned as NMC president in February

2004. During his time, NMC entered into a \$7.5 million acquisition contract of La Fiesta mall in San Roque for the Gateway Project.

The project, which aimed to attract foreign students to study at NMC, promised to bring in hundreds of million dollars a year to the college.

Wright was plagued with criticisms pertaining to this project and for his termination of 11 NMC program managers barely two months since his arrival.

McPhetres added that she reviewed some of NMC's documents and reports and concluded that the college's program delivery was not effective.

"The problem, I think, is that the academia lost control of the quality of instruction. I don't think there was much monitoring of the quality of instruction that is going on in the classroom," McPhetres said.

She added that Rota and Tinian's academic programs were also not handled correctly, which resulted in the closure of their academic programs.

Secondly, she added, "Enrollment has gone down dramatically in those areas. It used to be that Rota had twice as many students than Tinian but now Tinian had more, according to the reports," said McPhetres.

McPhetres said she cannot

say much right now as she still needs to review NMC's reports, particularly how the college obtained its current status.

She said she is looking forward to working with the Board of Regents and NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"I am very happy I got appointed and confirmed by the Senate so that I can contribute and help the other board members get back in the right direction," McPhetres said.

She added that she has come up with suggestions to beat the downgraded status of the college and will share them with the rest of the board members this Thursday at a special meeting.

McPhetres was appointed to replace recently resigned regent Eloise A. Furey.

Fitial proclaims Girl Scout Week

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rienne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 50 local Girl Scout troops and their leaders gathered at the Governor's conference room yesterday to mark the start of another celebration in honor of the program that aims to develop self-esteem and leadership skills among girls.

During a signing ceremony yesterday afternoon, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial pronounced March 7-13 as Girl Scout Week.

Three Girl Scout members took turns reading aloud the proclamation before the governor's endorsement.

"Girl Scouts is a vital organization for girls who are growing up, enabling them to develop self-esteem and leadership skills, and providing an atmosphere of warm and true friendship," the members read.

"The Girl Scout program not only reflects the enduring values and standards that have been part of the organization since 1912, but also lends itself to the special and unique situation of girls in the new millennium."

The governor encourages everyone in the community to support in every way the activities and endeavors of the CNMI Girl Scouts.

March 12 will mark the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scout of the USA.

The Girl Scouts is the largest voluntary organization in the world for girls.

It also serves as a channel for girls of all ages to make important contributions to their communities, "including here in our islands in the Commonwealth."

Girl Scouts Overseas Committee chair Kim Prinz said that Saipan and Tinian have close to 80 Girl Scout members.

Prinz started the first troop in the CNMI in 1989.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joins members of the CNMI Girl Scouts with their troop leaders after the proclamation signing ceremony making March 7-13 as Girl Scout Week in commemoration of the organization's 96th anniversary at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Monday afternoon.

24/7 POWER AVAILABLE



A TanHoldings Company

Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PMB 521 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Tel: 1 (670) 235-6527/28
Fax: (670) 235-6530
sales@rmssaipan.com
www.rmssaipan.com

SUNSETVIEW TERRACES



Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony and are fully furnished.

FREE wireless DSL internet service.

- 24 Hour Water
- Night time security
- Typhoon Shutters
- Laundry area
- Backup Generator
- On-call maintenance staff



Now we're giving you more reasons to sign up for a year's contract!

Receive an annual FREE VIP Membership to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and enjoy these VIP privileges:

- 1 Free Sunday Brunch Buffet for two
- 20% discount on food and beverages in all outlets / restaurants
- 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)

Senate, House disagree on SOCA venue

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The two chambers of the 16th Legislature appear to be at odds as to where the 2008 State of the Commonwealth Address should be held.

In a joint resolution sent to the House of Representatives on Jan.

31 by the Senate, Senate President Pete P. Reyes proposed that the SOCA be held at the chamber of the House of Representatives at the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

However, the House returned the joint resolution enclosed with amendments that effectively changed the venue

to the traditional home of the SOCA, the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The amendments to Senate Joint Resolution No. 16-1, SD-1 adopted by the House were made Feb. 29, during the lower chamber's fourth day, first regular session.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary, Charles P. Reyes, meanwhile, said the Governor's Office would rather take a hands-off approach in the selection of the SOCA venue.

But if it was up to him, he would prefer that the event be held at the more comfortable and practical Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"I believe the Multi-Purpose [Center] is the most suitable location and that the administration would probably prefer this location over the Legislature's building because of the larger capacity, but we defer to the Legislature because the Legislature has the authority to decide where to schedule its joint sessions," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor is required by

the Constitution to report at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the CNMI and new measures that are necessary or desirable for the Commonwealth in the SOCA.

On the same day as the

SOCA, the Washington Representative is also required by the Constitution to personally appear before the Legislature and deliver his State of the Washington Representative Report.

The SOCA is scheduled for April 25, 2008, beginning at 9am. Previous stagings of the SOCA were held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

12 persons arrested for various offenses

Police arrested over the weekend 12 men and one woman for allegedly committing various offenses on Saipan.

All defendants were taken before Superior Court associate judges Juan T. Lizama and David A. Wiseman for a bail hearing yesterday.

The defendants are Roland Kaipat, Vicente Kaipat, Jeffrey C. Magofna, Shu Jin, Bernard Sebangiol, Julian Muna Sablan, Hillario Teigita Angui, David D. Kapileo, Anthony Cariaga Norita, Joshua Lee Santos, Wainy Williander Moses, and Jun Kitaoka.

The two Kaipats and Magofna were arrested after the court revoked a previous order that allowed them temporary liberty when they were arrested for allegedly stealing copper wires at the La Fiesta building in As Matuis on Nov. 20, 2007.

After the Kaipats and Magofna were arrested, they asked

the police to make them confidential informants to solve other crimes.

Police, however, claimed that the three refused to cooperate with them, prompting the government to request the court to revoke the previous court order.

Jin, a female, was arrested for allegedly stealing \$926 from one of the workers at Kyung Seung Garment Factory in Sadog Tasi.

Jin is presently out on pre-trial bail conditions for allegedly stealing two 20-foot containers loaded with garments from Kyung Seung Garment.

Sebangiol was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, and disturbing the peace, for allegedly assaulting a male neighbor with a piece of lumber and a spear gun at a residence in Chalan Kanoa Saturday night.

The victim was not hit, police said.

Sablan and Angui were arrested for burglary and theft in

connection with the break-in at Victory Chapel in Garapan on Oct. 12, 2007.

Kapileo was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace for allegedly assaulting a man and two Russian women in western Garapan on Feb. 22.

Norita was arrested for criminal mischief and minor consuming alcohol. Using rocks, he and two other persons allegedly damaged a pickup truck that was parked at the Joeten Dandan on Feb. 10.

Santos and Moses were arrested for burglary, theft, receiving stolen property, and accessory. The two allegedly burglarized a house in Koblerville on April 7, 2007.

Kitaoka, a Japanese, was arrested for sexual assault in the first degree and in the second degree. He allegedly raped a Japanese woman inside her room at a hotel on Feb. 28. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Welcome to Saipan



HISATAKE FAMILY
Mar. 9 - 12, 2008

PDi
PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT INC.

ATTENTION PTI SUBSCRIBERS

Due to new Consumer Proprietary Network Information regulations, account information is protected. If your account is being paid in Customer Service by anyone other than the subscriber listed on the billing statement, the payment slip **MUST** be presented. Cashiers and other PTI personnel will **NO LONGER** be able to give balances or account information to anyone other than the subscriber of record without permission.

NOTISIA PARA TODO PTI SUBSCRIBERS

Pot I nuebu na Consumer Proprietary Network Information regulasion, ma protetehi i yomu account. Komo otro na petsunat umapapasi i yomu account gi Customer Service fera nu i prefektu gaige gi billing statement, debi na hu ma presenta i Payment Slip gi tendera. I tendera yan representanten PTI ti sina esta ma na'hi infotmasion para otro petsunat fera ni hago sin petmasion.

PAALALA SA LAHAT NG PTI SUBSCRIBERS

Dahil sa panibagong regulasyon ng Consumer Proprietary Network Information, ang anumang impormasyon ukol sa inyong account ay protektado. Kung ang inyong account ay binabayaran sa Customer Service ng nino man maliban sa may-ari ng account, ang PTI payment slip ay kailangang ipakita. Ang mga kahera at iba pang empleyado ng PTI ay hindi na maaaring magbigay ng balanse o ng anumang impormasyon ukol sa inyong account sa kanino man maliban sa may-ari ng account ng walang pahintulot.

PTI顧客の皆様へ

新しい消費者ネットワーク情報保護法(Consumer Proprietary Network Information regulations)により、アカウント情報が保護されることになりました。もし、あなたのアカウントについて Billing Statementに記載された加入者以外の方がカスタマーサービスセンターで支払う場合には、Payment Slipが必要になります。今後は、許可なく加入者以外の方にアカウント情報に関し話す事が出来なくなりましたので、宜しくご了承ください

고객님께 알립니다

고객님의 개인 재산 보호법과 관련하여 다른 고객 분이 오셔서 대신 요금을 내실 때에는 꼭 전화요금 청구서와 함께 내셔야 합니다. 캐셔와 다른 PTI 직원들은 본인의 구좌가 아니면 허락 없이 전화요금 내역 또는 정보를 본인 이외의 타인에게 절대 알려 줄 수 없습니다.

PTI 用户提示

根据新客户网络信息权责规定，客户账户信息将予以保护。如前往客服支付费用的人员，不是客户付款声明书中指定的人员，须出示缴费卡。如没有经过客户书面授权 PTI 收银员或其他工作人员，将不再提供任何账户及客户信息。



Customer Care: 682-4PTI (4784)
www.pticom.com

Rehabilitation Research Institute for Underrepresented Populations (RRIUP)
Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Presents a training entitled:

A Systems Approach to Placement (SAP): A Holistic Technique by Dr. Mandan Kundu

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Hyatt Regency Saipan, Chamolinian Room

Please call 322-6537/8 to RSVP before March 14, 2008.
No Fee. Seating is limited. Please bring a simple calculator.

The placement model incorporates human, organizational, environmental and cultural factors in the holistic process of placement.

Madan M. Kundu, Ph.D. is the Project Director of RRIUP and Chair and Professor of the Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Southern University. His areas of research interest are: multicultural/cultural diversity issues, placement models, prediction models for rehabilitation outcome, traumatic brain injury, and independent living.

Targeted audience includes Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, Placement Specialist (WIA, OPM, DEST/DOL), Rehabilitation Assistants/Technicians, Students & Rehabilitation Professionals.



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Tel.: (670) 322-6537/8 Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449 E-MAIL: Voc.Rehab@Saipan.Com



Rep. Wakai donates books, clothing

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A donation of used books and clothing from a Hawaii con-

gressman were issued to 14 elementary schools and the Karidat and Ayuda Network yesterday at the Public School System Serve Mart Warehouse

in Lower Base.

The donations came from Rep. Glen Wakai of Honolulu, who used to be a resident of the CNMI. Wakai, a member of the

Democratic Party, represents the 31st Representative District in the Hawaii State House of Representatives of the Hawaii State Legislature.

Fourteen boxes of used books were donated to the Public School System elementary schools and 12 boxes of used clothing were donated to Karidat and the Ayuda Network.

Rota and Tinian's share of the

donated items will also be sent off soon.

Karidat's executive director Angie V. Leon Guerrero said the donations were timely.

"We always have people coming in seeking assistance from us and we give them whatever we can," Leon Guerrero said.

DanDan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas said he appreciates the donation of used

books but he wishes the donation would be given to places that need them more such as the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Although we sometimes lack textbook in our schools, we are still very well equipped with what we have," Barcinas said.

He added that he will go ahead and auction off the donated books or donate them to the Division of Youth & Services.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Oleai Elementary School vice principal Jack Sablan receives the school's share of books from acting Procurement and Supply officer Juan Babauta at the PSS Serve Mart warehouse in Lower base yesterday morning. The donated used books and clothing came from Rep. Glen Wakai of Hawaii.



BOOK SIGNING

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Local writer Richard Carl Bright, who penned the absorbing World War II saga *Pain and Purpose in the Pacific: True Reports of WWII*, signs a copy of the book during Saturday's book signing at the American Memorial Park's Visitors' Center. As a former Continental Airlines pilot based in Guam and now retired and currently living on Saipan, Bright had the opportunity over a five-year period to visit other islands that were the scene of horrific battles of World War II.

LAPD

From Page 1

At a press briefing yesterday, attorney Bruce Berline, one of three counsels for Miura, disclosed that Geragos found out that the 1988 arrest warrant was actually recalled on Feb. 25, 2008, by a California judge. Los Angeles Superior Court judge Norm Shapiro then issued a new arrest warrant for Miura that same day, Berline said.

"What we now learned is that it appears that the LAPD has misled judge Shapiro...and apparently misled the CNMI," he said.

The recall of the 1988 arrest warrant and the issuance of a new one, Berline explained, means that the entire hear-

ing that lasted for almost five hours on March 5 in front of Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona was based on the old warrant.

That 1988 warrant, in fact, did not exist because it had been recalled by judge Shapiro on Feb. 25, the lawyer stressed.

Berline said they haven't filed any motions in the Superior Court because they are waiting for clarifications from California through Geragos.

"What happened is, from our information based from Mr. Geragos, is that someone from LAPD appeared in front of judge Shapiro sometime around Feb. 25, 2008 and requested a new warrant to be issued on Mr. Miura," he said.

At that time, Berline said, judge Shapiro recalled the 1988 warrant and is-

sued a new warrant.

Berline then provided the media a copy of the docket from Judge Shapiro about Miura's case.

The lawyer said the docket states that on May 5, 1988 a complaint was filed charging Miura with various charges.

He said the docket also then states that on May 5, 1988, an arrest warrant with no bail was issued by judge J.D. Smith.

"The next entry on the docket is Feb. 25, 2008 at 8:30am [that states] the warrant was recalled to amend complaint for extradition arrest warrant to issue," Berline said.

On that same day, Feb. 25, the lawyer said, judge Shapiro issued an arrest warrant in the amount of no bail.

"We are expecting by early tomorrow morning our time...further clarifi-

cations from Mr. Geragos as he appears in front of the same judge Shapiro at 10am. California time," he said.

Asked why the warrant was recalled, Berline said they have been informed of several reasons but one of the reasons was that the original warrant was issued from the LA Municipal Court.

"That is no longer in existence. And there is an argument that the LA Municipal Court didn't have the power to issue a warrant for the issue of extradition," Berline said.

"So as of Feb. 25th, the 1988 warrant was recalled and therefore did not exist," he stressed.

Berline's co-counsel, William Fitzgerald, said what they don't know is what was presented to judge Shapiro.

"We do know that the initial warrant,

signed in 1988 at that time, that there was no issue regarding Mr. Miura's conviction in Japan," Fitzgerald said.

When the second warrant was issued on Feb. 25, the lawyer said, they are curious as to whether or not the government of California or the LAPD informed judge Shapiro that Miura has already been convicted and served his sentence on one charge and has been acquitted by an appellate court and his conviction with respect to the murder of his wife was overturned by Japan's Supreme Court.

Fitzgerald said Geragos wants to make sure that judge Shapiro knows this situation, that Miura's case had already been adjudicated and that the LAPD, State of California basically gave up their right by allowing Japan to prosecute Miura.

3 HURT

From Page 1

remains unknown as of press time.

Ogumoro said that a man and a woman were treated for minor injuries at CHC and were later released.

Ogumoro said one vehicle turned

turtle during the incident.

The collision was reported to DPS at 1:49pm.

The DPS spokesperson said that no one was arrested and that police placed the incident under further investigation.

She said she has no other information yet as police were still completing

their report.

Saipan Tribune learned that the vehicle that overturned on the outer lane of the southbound lane was a sports utility vehicle with license plate ABW-999.

A white Toyota Sienna CE van with license plate ABP-854 ended up on the shoulder of the road near the SUV.

A white Ford FISO pickup with license plate 3395 belonging to the Division of Environmental Quality plunged into the drainage beside the northbound lane after colliding with a gold Toyota Echo with license plate SEA S 1.

The Toyota car came to a rest on the other side of the drainage next to the pickup truck.

All four vehicles sustained extensive damage.

DPS is expected to release more information about the accident today.

Last Thursday, two persons were hurt during a collision involving three vehicles that was reportedly triggered when a parked truck rolled back onto the highway in Garapan.

NUN

From Page 1

and Patrol Unit immediately responded to the site.

BSU officers conducted a water search, while the SARU Team combed the shoreline and beach area. The U.S. Coast Guard's Hilo chopper also helped by conducting an aerial search.

After hours of searching or at 12:30am yesterday, the chopper located the victim in the ocean between Saipan and Tinian.

After being notified by the Coast Guard about the victim's location, BSU officers proceeded to the area where they pulled her out of the water.

The officers transported the nun to CHC where a doctor pronounced her dead.

"This case is pending further investigation. Weather conditions were partly cloudy with isolated showers. Surf conditions were high at the time," Ogumoro said.

The police report did not mention if Phan was swimming alone.

Lan Nguyen, a resident of Minneapolis, said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Phan was her best friend and that both of them worked in the same

place in Minneapolis for over six years.

Nguyen said Phan had e-mailed her few days ago in which she disclosed her plan to return to Minnesota next month.

This is the third drowning incident on Saipan this year.

On Feb. 14, Roberto R. Raquepo, a Filipino, drowned after he tried to retrieve his catch from the ocean while fishing at the cliff line near the Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville.

Last Jan. 21, a Palauan man and his companion were swept by a big wave while they were crab hunting at the cliff line of Marine Beach in Kagman. The Palauan was never found, but his companion managed to swim back to the cliff line.

In March 2007, four Korean students drowned at Forbidden Island when a big wave struck at them while they were hiking on the cliff line.

'Lawmakers should support public access to AEDs'

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health is urging CNMI lawmakers to express support for

Merrill Lynch exec is Rotary guest speaker

Merrill Lynch Honolulu first vice president Kenan J. Knieriem, CFA, will be the Rotary Club of Saipan's guest speaker at its weekly meeting today at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Knieriem is the manager of the Merrill Lynch Honolulu IAD office. In addition to his managerial responsibilities, Kenan is an Institutional Consulting Group designated financial adviser and heads the Merrill Lynch institutional eq-

a bill now pending in the U.S. Congress that would establish a federal grant program providing automated external defibrillators in elementary and secondary schools.

uity and fixed income trading desk in Hawaii.

She joined Merrill Lynch 25 years ago as a retail financial consultant and spent the past 15 years working exclusively with institutional clients in providing institutional research and market coverage to the major banks, trust companies, governments, and investment managers in Hawaii and the Western Pacific.

Aside from serving as today's guest speaker at the Rotary meeting, Knieriem also acted in the same capacity in the Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC) in Guam Conference. Knieriem will be accompanied in today's Rotary meeting by two Rotarians from Guam Rotary Club.

Rotary clubs are made up of men and women who want to improve their communities and the world. Rotary clubs around the world focus on projects that address a wide range of issues such as hunger, environmental concerns, illiteracy, drug abuse prevention, childhood immunization, and helping youth and the elderly.

Rotary's largest and most ambitious humanitarian effort is the PoliPlus program, aimed to eradicate polio worldwide.

Established in 1985, the program allowed Rotary clubs to raise nearly \$250 million for child immunization in developing countries, more than doubling the campaign goal. (Mark Rabago)

H.R. 4926, also known as the "Josh Miller Helping Everyone Access Responsive Treatment in Schools," or HEARTS, was introduced by Rep. Betty Sutton (D-Ohio). The bill will also require schools that receive these grants to certify that five adults at the school have been trained in CPR and AED use.

They must also coordinate with the local paramedics and other emergency personnel to ensure those suffering from car-

diac arrest can have the quickest possible access to care.

DPH director of medical affairs Dr. Edward Cornette said he thinks that the CNMI Legislature should support the HEARTS Act.

"I think the effort on the part of our legislators to endorse H.R. 4926 would make a significant contribution toward public access to AEDs in the CNMI," Cornette said.

He said that, although AED access in the community is

not the complete answer to emergency events such as heart failure or other causes of cardiac arrest, it can certainly help in "limited circumstances involving ventricular fibrillation and pulse-less ventricular tachycardia."

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter and the Marianas Visitors Authority are working collaboratively on distributing emergency care kits to three famous dive sites in the CNMI: LauLau Beach, Obyan Beach,

and the Grotto.

The emergency care kits would include emergency bottled oxygen, an AED unit, and a first aid kit.

MVA's Perry Tenorio says that they will also be working with the Legislature for the enactment of the Good Samaritan Law.

The Good Samaritan Law protects rescuers voluntarily helping a victim in distress from being sued in court (i.e. for wrongdoing).

Aqua Resort brings authentic Japanese soba to Saipan

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Japanese expatriates on Saipan pinning for authentic teuchi soba can now savor the distinct taste of handmade buckwheat noodles at Aqua Resort Club.

Starting last Sunday, the Achugao hotel began serving freshly made Japanese soba during its Champagne Sunday Brunch.

Aqua Resort food and beverage sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa said the Japanese soba action station is for a limited time only—on March 16 and 30—by famous Japanese noodle restaurant Okada.

"Japanese soba is made here from scratch. I don't think anybody else has that on island. We're the only one and this is genuine Japanese handmade, hand-beaten buckwheat noodles. All the ingredients are authentic and they [Okada] brought them from Japan," said Yanagisawa.

She said her friends and compatriots living on Saipan have long requested her to convince Aqua Resort to bring the tasty noodle dish to local shores.

"I want the Japanese people here to have it because they are hungry for real Japanese food. It's a very popular dish and major



MARK RABAGO
Aqua Resort Club food and beverage sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa, left, poses with Okada Restaurant staff, from left, operations manager Shunsuke Katagiri, owner Toshimitsu Okada, and president Mayumi Suzuki at the Japanese soba action station last Sunday during the Achugao hotel's Champagne Sunday Brunch.

staple in Japan but is very rare to find here on Saipan," she said.

The Japanese soba action station was very popular among local diners last Sunday with some of them joining Japanese guests who milled around noodle maker Shunsuke Katagiri, who has been with Okada the past five years.

"Local people are enjoying it too. Kids are also enjoying watching how they make the Japanese soba. This is very interesting and people are just gathering around and watching how Japanese soba is made," said Yanagisawa.

She added that the Japanese soba action station will only be on for two more Sundays this month because Aqua Resort will be holding its Easter Sunday Brunch promotion on March 24.

"This is a rare chance to taste genuine Japanese noodles made fresh right in front of you. There's no extra charge and it's for a limited time only and limited to 100 servings every Sunday. It's very delicious and very popular in Japan. We want the real delicious Japanese soba and it's now here at Aqua Resort," said Yanagisawa.

Aside from Katagiri, who is operations manager of Okada's Saipan venture, Aqua Resort's Japanese soba action station was also manned by the restaurant's president, Mayumi Suzuki. Owner Toshimitsu Okada was also present to oversee the operation.

The Champagne Sunday Brunch costs \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children and is open from 11am to 2pm.

For reservations, call Aqua Resort at 322-1234 and request to be connected to the food and beverage department at extensions 756 or 732.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Doris Bermudes, who is celebrating her birthday today, March 11. "Wishing you a happy birthday and many more to come." Greetings come from your co-workers at the CNMI Senate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PRESENT

TUESDAY SHE NIGHTS

CLUB X

zyNERGY

SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Another exciting offer from the Grand!

Sexy... Hip... Exciting!

\$5 cover charge and SHE gets two free DRINKS

Featuring the music of

A special HEINEKEN treat for the ladies!

Every Tuesday, door opens at 9:30pm



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



INVITATION TO BID PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL SUNSET BAR & GRILL

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting bids for the sale of the PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL SUNSET BAR & GRILL. Sale includes CDA's interest in the following sites:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Site 1 - Lot 008 H 33 - 1,017 sqm | Sunset Bar & Grill |
| • Site 2 - Lot 008 H 36 - 479 sqm | Residential Home |
| • Site 3 - Lot 008 H 37 - 780 sqm | Hotel |
| • Site 4 - Lot 008 H 29 - 950 sqm | Parking north of hotel (leasehold interest) |
| • Site 5 - Lot 008 H 31 - 1,413 sqm | Former Seoul Rest.(subject to lease) |

LOTS ARE FREE OF CNMI TAX LIENS AND REDEMPTION PERIOD, BUT TITLE IS NOT OTHERWISE WARRANTED.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum bid - \$1,000,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest bidder.
3. PGH Lots are being sold as a package.
4. PGH Lots are being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
5. PGH Lots are being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) at 234-6245 or 234-7145 for further information. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

A deposit of 10% of the total price bid must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

Interested party or person is asked to submit their bid at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Pacific Gardenia Hotel Bid" addressed to Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, ACEO. Deadline to submit bid is **10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2008.**

Dated this 12th day of February 2008.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

\$29K grant to monitor nitrate in local aquifers

The U.S. Geological Survey and Water Institute Program recently awarded Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Division of Environmental Quality a grant that will be used to monitor the levels of nitrate in the groundwater pumped from local aquifers.

Weekly samples will be collected from approximately 20 wells in southern Saipan for over a one-year period and will be analyzed at the DEQ laboratory.

Additional analysis may be conducted at each sampling site as deemed necessary. Electronic

rainfall gauges will be installed at four sites in the watershed of southern Saipan well field and the data downloaded monthly.

The principal investigators for this \$29,000 project are Derek Chambers of DEQ and Heidi Yelin of CUC.

"This project is an excellent example of the collaborative relationship between CUC and DEQ. While we issue orders and provide various services, both CUC and DEQ also prioritize the health of the community and this project will help us better under-

stand how to better safeguard our groundwater," said Frank M. Rauliman, DEQ director.

The result of this project will provide regulatory guidance to CUC on how frequently the monitoring for nitrate concentration should be conducted for southern Saipan's aquifers.

Saipan's groundwater is susceptible to nitrate contamination from the numerous on-site septic systems that exist in many villages, and possibly from the use of nitrate based fertilizers on agricultural plots. **(DEQ)**

Taotao Tano adopts public library

Advocacy group Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc. has adopted the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe for their community cleanup activities, with the inaugural cleanup held Saturday, March 9.

Gregorio Cruz, president of Taotao Tano, said that the group's adoption of the library was agreed on during the induction of six new board members and officers on March 5, 2008.

"We all decided and agreed that part of our community work

would be to assist educational institutions with volunteer work during these hard economic times. You know, there's no money to pay for cleaning up the library's yard, so we are volunteering our efforts to do this," said Cruz.

He said the cleanup was a huge success, ending with a barbecue at the house of Taotao Tano board member Marvin Pangelinan.

"The induction of the board members and new officers during our last board meeting held March 5 only strengthens the

mission and objectives of Taotao Tano for a better CNMI. We would like to congratulate the individuals who participated in the two-day community service at Joeten-Kiyu public library and our appreciation to the members of Taotao Tano for their continued support," said Cruz.

The group also extended a huge appreciation to CarQuest for donating a used bush-cutter, and to Joeten Enterprise and Saipan Stevedore for their many contributions to Taotao Tano.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Volunteers from the local advocacy group Taotao Tano CNMI Association, Inc., gather for a photo after spending their afternoon under the heat of the sun doing clean up in front of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library Saturday. Group president Gregorio Cruz is joined here by vice president Jean Cruz, Martin Reyes, Derek Palacios, Milagro Palacios, James Vongsas Reyes, K.J. Atalig Reyes, Martin Jr. Reyes, Jesse D. Reyes, Keanna Cruz, and Marvin Pangelinan.

EMO warns of rough seas due to winds

The Emergency Management Office alerted the public yesterday to rough seas brought about by strengthening trade winds, saying that waters are expected to remain choppy until Wednesday evening.

In a small craft advisory for winds, EMO said that strengthening trade winds will cause seas to build. The small craft advisory for winds will be in effect through early Wednesday morning.

The advisory was issued based on information received from the National Weather Ser-

vice in Tiyan Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Management Office.

Saipan, Tinian and Rota waters:

■ Tuesday: East wind of 15 to 20 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots, wind waves from 7 to 9 feet, and east swell of 6 feet and north, 3 feet;

■ Tuesday night: east wind from 15 to 20 knots, wind waves 6 to 8 feet, east swell 7 feet, and north 3 feet;

■ Wednesday: east wind 10 to 20 knots with gusts of up to 30 knots, wind waves 5 to 7 feet,

east swell 8 feet;

■ Thursday: east wind 10 to 15 knots, wind waves 3 to 5 feet, east swell 7 feet;

■ Friday: east wind 10 to 15 knots, wind waves 3 to 5 feet, east swell 7 feet.

EMO is reminding the public to continue to exercise caution along east facing reefs and along north facing reefs. Wave conditions support stronger or more frequent rip currents.

EMO advises swimmers to always have a flotation device when going into the water. **(EMO)**

FROM THE SAIPAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL ADVANCED BAND



PHOTO BY RAINBOW COLOR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



NORTHERN MARIANAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH PARADISE ISLAND VETERINARIAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

4TH TUMON BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL, GUAM 2008

Rioters in Nauru torch police station

By RAY LILLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Rioters on the Pacific island nation of Nauru set fire to the tiny nation's main police station during a weekend protest by about 100 young people, New Zealand's government said Monday.

No one was injured in the violence although the police station was gutted and several people were arrested, said James Funnell, a spokesman for New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters.

The larger Pacific nations of Australia and New Zealand maintain close ties with Nauru and other small island nations in the region.

The cause of the Nauru rioting was not immediately clear. Political turmoil there came to a head late last year when a breakaway group of Cabinet ministers ousted

President Ludwig Scotty in a no-confidence motion, accusing his government of taking no action on corruption allegations.

Marcus Stephens, Nauru's former champion weightlifter and a Commonwealth Games medalist, was elected as the new president on Dec. 19.

Funnell said the latest reports from the island said the situation was calm.

Officials in Nauru—a speck of land halfway between Australia and Hawaii—were not immediately available for comment.

"It appears from our inquiries the origin of the violence is a long-standing commercial dispute," Funnell said. He did not give further details of the problem or say how many people were arrested in the violence.

"Police reservists were sworn under emergency authority to protect national infrastructure," he said.

Those detained were being

held in a camp the Australian government set up on the island in 2001 to house foreign asylum seekers, who were caught while heading for Australia by boat,

while their asylum requests were being processed. The program ended earlier this year and no asylum seekers were still in the camp, Funnell said.

Senate confirms McPhetres, 3 others

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 16th Senate approved former Northern Marianas College president and founder Agnes McPhetres' appointment to serve in the tertiary institution's Board of Regents during a session on Rota last Friday.

In a recommendation signed by Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations members, McPhetres was given the nod

to serve as a voting members of NMC, representing Saipan and taking over the unexpired term of regent Eloise A. Furey.

McPhetres, who had a 16-year career at NMC before leaving in 1999, will serve as regent until June 29, 2009. Furey resigned last month.

The Senate's approval of McPhetres' appointment was signed by committee chair Sen. Paterno Hocog, vice chair Sen. Jude Hoffschneider, Sen. Frica T. Pangelinan, Sen. Henry H. San

Nauru was the third South Pacific country to suffer rioting and arson in the past two years. Similar problems have hit Samoa and Tonga.

Nauru was once was a major supplier of phosphate, which is used for making farm fertilizer.

Its population of about

12,500 had one of the world's highest per capita incomes about 25 years ago. The country's fortunes dwindled as its phosphate reserves ran out, however, and have been worsened by bad investments and poor economic management by its government.

Nicolas, Sen. Paul A. Manglona, and Sen. Felix T. Mendiola.

In a transmittal letter informing McPhetres' nomination to succeed Furey as regent dated Feb. 29, 2008, then acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez noted that, "the governor and I are confident that Ms. McPhetres is qualified and will be an asset on this important board."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, for his part, thanked the Senate for confirming McPhetres as well as three other of his most recent appointments.

Aside from McPhetres the

Senate also positively acted on the re-appointment of Elaine Hocog Orilla to the NMC Board of Regents as well as the appointments of Jose R. Lifofoi and Dicta C. Tenorio to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors and Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund board of trustees representing Saipan.

Orilla will serve the island of Rota and will have a term that expires on March 2, 2012. Lifofoi, for his part, will also have a four-year term that ends on Jan. 16, 2011.

HANMI and Beautify CNMI team up for concert fundraiser

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and environment advocate Beautify CNMI will be hosting a fundraising concert this month featuring world renowned ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro.

The concert, held in conjunction with Beautify CNMI's two-year anniversary, will be held on March 27, 2008, at the Saipan World Resort.

Known for his lightning-fast fingers and revolutionary playing, Shimabukuro's musical styling ranges from jazz, blues, funk, and classical, to bluegrass, folk, flamenco and rock.

"Jake's last concert on Saipan was a sold out event and we are thrilled to bring him back on island for a second time," said HANMI chairwoman Lynn A. Knight.

Proceeds from the charity concert will be divided between HANMI and Beautify CNMI, both non-profit organizations.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and

\$15 for children less than 12 years in age. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$50.

Tickets are available for purchase at Century Hotel and Marianas Eye Institute. For additional ticket information or to purchase VIP tickets, call the PTI-sponsored Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462.

HANMI was established in August 29, 1985, after a group of hotel operators came together and saw the need to form an organization representing the hospitality industry in the CNMI.

Beautify CNMI is a coalition of various government agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, private citizens and visitors. Its mission is to foster community pride through a beautification campaign aimed at enhancing the beauty of the island environments and quality of life through public education on recycling, restoration, waste management, and enforcement of laws. (PR)

NCTS Guam to hold change of command ceremony Thu.

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station in Guam will hold a change of command ceremony on March 13, 10am at Top O' the Mar on Nimitz Hill.

During this time-honored Navy tradition, Cmdr. Marianna Magno will be relieved by Cmdr. William "Bill" Chase. The guest speaker will be Capt. Janet Stewart, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific in Hawaii.

Magno served as commanding officer of NCTS Guam since September 2005. Magno heads to San Diego, where she will serve as operations officer of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command's Chief In-

formation Officer branch.

Chase reports to Guam from Commander, U.S. Third Fleet where he filled the role of deputy assistant chief of staff for two departments -- Requirements as well as Innovation and Experimentation.

NCTS Guam provides assured command and control, fleet communications, computer and Base Communication services (voice, data and video), to Navy, joint, and allied forces and their support elements operating in NCTS Guam area of responsibility. The command is composed of proven experts in all realms of information technology and communications who directly support today's unique warfighters. (USN)

FREE Gillette Sensor Excel

with your Lucky 7 Passport!



The Best a Man Can Get™

From Feb. 25 to Mar. 24, get a coupon for a FREE Gillette Sensor Excel at any Joeten supermarket every time you redeem your Shell Lucky 7 Passport. While supplies last.



Shell Lucky 7 Passport
Don't gas up without it!

made to move ➔



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military ID Cards personnel sets visit

This is to inform all military personnel and their dependents that the ID Card people will be on island from March 17 to 21, 2008, to issue and renew military ID cards. The hours of operation are from 8:30am to 6pm.

For more information, contact SSG Noel Chargualaf at 322-6680 or SPC Tanya Songsong at 322-6670. **(PR)**

MHS calendar of events

March 14	3 rd Quarter Exam (3 rd and 4 th periods)
March 17	3 rd Quarter Exam (1 st and 2 nd periods)
March 19-28	No classes (break)
March 31	Classes resume (4 th Quarter begins)
April 21-25	SAT10 tests
May 2	No classes (Intercession Day)
May 5-16	Advanced Placement Tests
May 12-16	Standards-Based Assessment Tests
May 26	No classes (Memorial Day)
May 31	MHS Commencement Ceremony
June 3 4 th	Quarter ends

For more information, contact 237-3206. **(PR)**

Meeting for NMC graduation candidates

Candidates for the Spring 2008 Northern Marianas College Graduation are asked to attend a meeting on March 14, 2008 at 6pm at Building J (Student Center). Important issues such as graduation requirements, rehearsal dates, and the selection of a keynote speaker and a graduation representative to the Graduation Committee will be discussed.

Zoning Board village meetings

The Zoning Board will be holding village meetings on the following dates, times, and places:

- Tuesday, March 11, 6pm, Kagman High cafeteria
- Wednesday, March 12, 5:30pm NMC Student Center
- Monday, March 17, 6:30pm, DanDan Elementary cafeteria
- Tuesday, March 18, 6:30pm, Tanapag Elementary cafeteria
- Wednesday, March 19, 6pm, WSR Elementary cafeteria

Open forum on PL 15-108, regs today

The Department of Labor invites small businesses to attend an Educational Outreach Forum on PL 15-108 and its Implementing Regulations at 9am today, March 11, 2008, at the Multi-Purpose Complex in Susupe.

A copy of PL 15-108 and its Implementing Regulations may be downloaded through the Department's new jobs website, www.marianaslabor.net, said Cinta M. Kaipat, deputy secretary of Labor. Everyone is encouraged to attend this free informational session. For information on this session, call 236-0900. **(Labor)**

OES PTSA meeting today

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting today, March 11, 2008, 6pm in the school cafeteria. **(PR)**

Beautify CNMI award nominations deadline

The committee chairs of Beautify CNMI are seeking nominations for their annual Beautify CNMI Steward and Beautify CNMI Champion awards. The two awards will be given out at the annual Beautify CNMI anniversary dinner to take place on March 27. The deadline for nominations is this Friday, March 7 2008.

There are two award categories: the Environmental Steward and the Environmental Champion. To nominate an individual or group, submit a written nomination explaining why that person or group deserves recognition.

Send nominations to Angelo Villagomez at angelovillagomez@gmail.com or mail them to PO BOX 505149; Saipan, MP 96950 or call the PTI sponsored Beautify CNMI volunteer line at 285-6462 for more information. **(Beautify CNMI)**

Income tax forms now available

The Division of Revenue and Taxation said that the 2007 Individual Income Tax Return forms and instructions are now ready for distribution at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten Dan Dan Commercial Center.

These forms and instruction are already available on the Department of Finance website at www.dof.gov.mp.

The deadline for filing the 2007 Individual Income Tax Return is Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation. The office will remain open until 9:30pm on April 15 to receive tax returns. **(Rev&Tax)**

Local families needed to host students

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan is expecting 30 young Japanese students from the Oshima Maritime International High School of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government of Japan.

The students will be arriving on March 21, 2008 and they will be here on Saipan until March 28, 2008. The students will be on island

for a weeklong educational trip.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is inviting Saipan families to sponsor these young students from Japan for about a week. The Saipan Mayor's Office is still looking for interested families to open their homes and to help sponsor these young students.

If you are interested on hosting and sponsoring a student, or two students, contact the Mayor's Youth Programs coordinator Olinka Chaudhry at: 234-6208, 234-6280, or 235-7304. **(PR)**

Storytime for Toddlers

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library is hosting "Storytime for Toddlers" every Monday at 10:30am, with Wendy Rider, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Children of our Homeland Center. **(PR)**

WSR Elementary School March events

March 9- 15	Girl Scout Week
March 11	Science Fair Viewing, 8am- 2pm, Room G-2
March 11	National Jr. Honor Society Meeting, 2:30pm, Room G-2
March 12	Pizza Night Fundraising
March 12	February/March Diner's Club
March 12	PTSA Meeting, 6pm, Cafeteria
March 15	NJFL Regional Competition, MHS
March 15	Kinder-5th Math Court Competition, MHS
March 17	St. Patrick's Day (Wear Green Day)
March 18	3rd Quarter ends
March 22	Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Parent Seminar
March 19-20	State-level Professional Developments Day (no classes)
March 21-28	Easter Break
March 24	Commonwealth Covenant Day Holiday
March 29	CNMI American Red Cross Walk-A-Thon
March 31	4th Quarter Begins

WSR's library is open to the community Monday through Fridays from 2:30pm through 7pm. The library will also be open during Easter Break (March 25-28). We are encouraging the students and parents to use the services in our library.

Amateur radio licensing exam tomorrow

The next VE session offered by W5YI-VE sponsored by MDX Amateur Radio Club will be held tomorrow, March 12, 2008 from 6pm to 8pm, at the classroom of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter. For more information, contact Bong at 321-8888 or e-mail at mdx@mdx-radio.net

Walk-ins will be accepted, although pre-registration is encouraged. Those in the Technician Class who want to upgrade must bring the original and one photocopy of their FCC license and any applicable CSCES.

A valid ID will also be required. If you do not have a photo ID, bring two ID forms, at least one of which shows your current mailing address. The 2008 exam fee is \$14 for all elements.

The exam session will be administered by the MDX Amateur Radio Club Volunteer Examiner under the W5YI Volunteer Coordinator.

VEs wanting to assist in the exams should bring their VE IDs. Only VEs with valid ID are allowed inside the examination session. **(PR)**

Palau sets election-related deadlines

The Republic of Palau has scheduled several dates for the upcoming elections in 2008 and is informing all Palauans residing in the CNMI of these dates so they can participate.

- General Election Nov. 4, 2008
- Primary Election- Sept. 23, 2008
- Registration of voters Close on Sept. 5, 2008 at 4:30pm at the Palau Election Commission Office. Palauans over 18 years old and residing in the CNMI may register to vote by picking up an "Affidavit Application To Register To Vote Form" at the Palau Consulate-CNMI. Contact the Consulate at 235-6804 to get more information.

- Filing Nominating Petitions Close on Aug. 6, 2008
- Request for Absentee Ballots Close on Oct. 28, 2008 **(PR)**

MMAC Committee, Team Captains' meetings

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee will have a team captains' and committee meeting tomorrow, March 12, 2008, at 5:30pm, at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all previous and current MMAC team captains to attend this important monthly meeting where information regarding the upcoming 2008 MMAC event will be discussed. The MMAC Committee meeting will be held immediately after. All committee members are encouraged to attend.

The MMAC Committee is inviting all community businesses and residents to help in the fight against cancer by contributing to this worthy cause in any way they can. For more information, email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com. **(MMAC)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 11, 2002

CUC-CDA case now over

The long dispute over more than a hundred million dollars in CIP funds between the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is now over. The two autonomous government agencies have agreed to settle the case, with the suing party-the CDA-filing a legal pleading before the CNMI Superior Court Friday to withdraw its requested hearing for a motion for summary judgment that is supposed to be heard sometime this week.

MVA proposes initial permitting processes for free

In efforts to lure Chinese nationals to travel to the CNMI, the Marianas Visitors Authority proposed that initial processing for tourist visa be free of charge until such time that the tourism industry takes off. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said in 2000 alone, 53 Chinese nationals traveled abroad and that the tourism sector is willing to work hard to get even a fraction of the said number.

'Tourism campaign cost could reach \$2-M'

The administration may have to spend a conservative \$1.5 million to \$2 million for its Japan tourism campaign, based on the initial figures provided during last week's tourism strategic planning session. Quoting estimates mentioned during last week's presentation by the Tourism Strategic Planning Task Force, Marianas Visitors Authority acting Managing Director Vicky I. Benavente said the project's price tag is based on just five of the strategies that the task force is considering in implementing the project.

March 11, 2003

Sonic boom rattles NMI

A sonic boom from two U.S. fighter jets rocked the Northern Marianas late afternoon yesterday, prompting panicked calls to the Emergency Management Office and reportedly breaking glass windows in parts of Saipan. Air Force spokesperson Lt. Kim Melchor confirmed the fighter jets' flyby to the media on Guam, according to KUAM TV's Mindy Fothergill.

NMI tagged to lead regional airline, healthcare efforts

The Northern Marianas has been chosen to spearhead efforts toward improving the region's air transportation and healthcare services, following the First Western Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit that was concluded in Palau over the weekend. Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the chief executives of Guam, Palau and Yap gathered for the landmark meeting that dwelt on a broad spectrum of regional issues, according to the summit's official report.

BoS to have new directors

Bank of Saipan shareholders would install new members to the institution's board of directors when they convene this Saturday, bank receiver Antonio Muna said. Muna, who would sit as ex-officio member of the board, said the slate would include a representative from the bank's depositors, in addition to two other independent CNMI residents who would have a board seat each. Muna could block decisions of the board and the bank's loan committee through veto powers that the Superior Court gave him.

March 11, 2004

After House, Senate follows suit

Senators add voice to clamor supporting Verizon sale

The Senate yesterday concurred with the House's position seeking the expeditious approval by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission of Pacific Telecom Inc.'s purchase of Verizon/Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. House Joint Resolution 14-9 made it past the Senate with amendments that, among others, renewed the members' push for the resolution of the inter-island toll issue.

Senate slams govt's contract with Aranza firm

Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano yesterday recommended that the Senate make official its opposition to the government's contract with Federated Sector Enterprises--of which former Office of Insular Affairs Director Danny Aranza is managing partner--in the development of the NMI's Homeland Security strategic plan. The presiding officer suggested that a Senate resolution be crafted to reflect this sentiment. The move was provoked by concerns raised by Sen. Pete P. Reyes who, in a privilege speech, reminded his colleagues yesterday of what he termed as the "damage" Aranza caused on the CNMI's reputation and credibility.

Hyatt shows off i Sagua in Friday party

Hyatt Regency Saipan hosted an appreciation party Friday evening for its Club Elan members and special guests at the “i Sagua Spa,” in part to show off the hotel’s latest amenity.

I Sagua, meaning “channel of water” in the Chamorro language, is a spa that features a custom-designed setting that embraces the local environment and culture.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal was joined by his wife Cora and other hotel officials to welcome guests to the spa, which was especially aglow that night, showing off its tranquil setting.

Here are some pictures from that event:



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Tribune Small Business Person of the Year Lisa P. Sablan, right, with mother and daughter Yuko and Noriko Togawa enjoy the night during the i Sagua Spa’s appreciation party at Hyatt Regency Saipan Friday night.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan aficionados Joanna and Mike Pai and James and Mary Lin.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive assistant manager Matt Araki, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant director for Food & Beverage Daryl Thong, with Saipan Tribune Small Business Person of the Year Lisa P. Sablan.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Cora von Siebenthal with special guests during the appreciation party.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

I Sagua Spa is part of Hyatt Pure, which is a worldwide collection of extraordinary spas worldwide, ranging from urban to resort setting.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal with wife Cora von Siebenthal and Lisa Sablan of Sablan Topline Cleaning Agency.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Club at the Hyatt spa manager Vicky Benavente and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Michael von Siebenthal.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive assistant manager Matt Araki with N15 Architects Christopher Fryling and Sarah Blalock.



i Sagua Spa’s highly trained and professional staff gather for a photo.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Bob Hudkins and wife Merle grace the event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rose Chan, Lisa Sablan, Terry Attao, Club at the Hyatt spa manager Vicky Benavente, and Club at the Hyatt manager Yulia Camacho gather for a photo.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lisa Sablan, Terry Attao and Rose Chan smile for the camera.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 71Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Stuck on the farm

As Congress and the administration wrangle over a new farm bill before the current version expires next Saturday, here are two numbers that may help clarify the issues: \$5.74 and \$92.3 billion. The former is the price of a bushel of corn on Wednesday, a historic high. The latter is the Agriculture Department's estimate for farm income; it is 4.1 percent above the \$88.7 billion farmers made in 2007 and 51 percent above the average for the past 10 years.

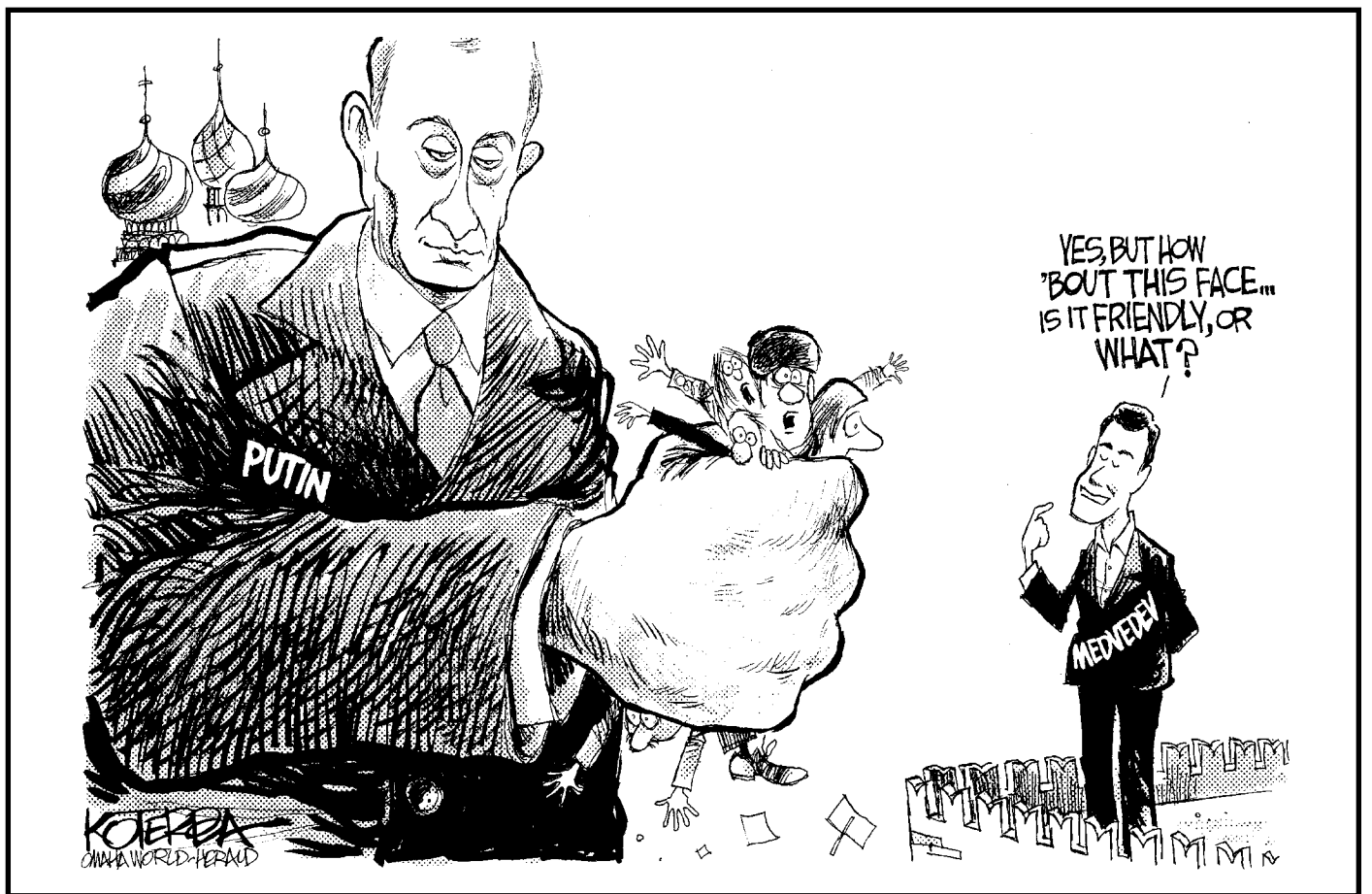
Yet in this flush time for farmers, House and Senate conferees are contemplating a farm bill that might cost \$10 billion more over the next decade than the current law would have. The tentative \$280 billion-plus price tag includes needed spending on nutrition and soil conservation programs—but also about \$5 billion a year in cash transfers to corn, soybean, wheat, cotton and rice farmers over the next five years. So far, there are no meaningful limits on the amount each farm enterprise can receive. Thus, plenty of this federal largess will be showered on people much richer than the average American, who is struggling with higher food costs.

The current discussion among the House, the Senate and the Bush administration centers on how to finance the 10-year spending increase. Reported proposals range from tightening Internal Revenue Service rules on listing certain business expenses to tweaks in Medicare reimbursements for medical equipment. Presumably, negotiators think that they can sell such changes as neither tax increases—which the administration has said it will not allow—nor Medicare cuts. Agreement has so far proven elusive, and the bill, for the moment, is stalled.

The real point is that there is no justification whatsoever for spending billions more on agriculture, no matter how it's paid for. Instead, the bill should have been redrafted to reflect new economic realities. Congress should cut crop subsidies and cap payments to well-to-do farmers, devoting the savings to deficit reduction and increases in food stamps, so that the poor can afford higher grocery prices. Rep. Ron Kind, D-Wis., recently circulated a letter among his colleagues showing how this could be done, through 10 modest changes to the law, among them a means test for subsidies that would still let farm households making up to \$200,000 a year get federal help. But cotton interests, represented powerfully in the Senate by Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., have historically resisted any serious limitation on federal payments to growers of those crops. Meanwhile, the Bush administration is insisting on at least some form of means-testing. Hence the current standoff.

What goes up must come down; crop prices will moderate sooner or later. But growing food demand in developing countries such as India and China strongly suggests that grain commodities will stay relatively expensive for the near future, buoying farm income in the United States. This is the time to slash these wasteful and expensive subsidies, not lock them into law. Both reformers in Congress and the Bush administration must stand their ground.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Island Spirit

Off Broadway offering

The cast and crew of *The Play Buffet* put on a great evening of entertainment in their opening performances last weekend. I was pleasantly surprised by the good scripts and generally excellent performances. Segments ranged from a convoluted plot murder mystery to a heart rending retro childhood piece and a lot of other interesting stuff in between. The nearly full theater at American Memorial Park gave the performers a rousing ovation at the surprising conclusion. It's the best 5 bucks I have spent in a long time.

I recommend that you go see one of the last two performances. This Thursday Mar. 13, and Friday, March 14, again at the AMP Theater, 7pm. The Saipan Swim Club is on hand to supply your snacking needs at intermission. The cookies and fruit snacks are great and the proceeds benefit the team and its hard training members' travel fund.

■■■

Numbskull-nomics II

A couple of months ago I razzed Ron Hodges for his ill-advised threat letter to the editor. In fairness I will now praise him for a smart move.

I saw another letter to the editor from classroom teacher Ron Hodges last week in which he formally resigned from the Chamber of Commerce. I got a pretty good laugh out of it (breath exhaling smirk-wise) and asked myself the obvious question: What took him so long?

It reminds me of the unbalanced, and of course anonymous, birdbrain who posted repeatedly on Jeff Turbitt's blog awhile back about how he disliked it and how badly it was written etc. Jeff answered the guy by stating the obvious; then why do you keep coming back to read it? Jeff went on to ask the guy if he repeatedly went back to restaurants he didn't like. At least the unhappy blogger wasn't paying to attend Jeff's Hypercritical Thoughts blogsite as Ron was paying dues to flagellate himself over membership in the Chamber.

Ron, who disagrees with most everything the Chamber does and says, is probably far better off as a non-member. The Chamber (which I also belong to) may miss out on an important opposing viewpoint from time to time but I'm sure Ron won't be too shy to post that view in some other forum.

Good move, Ron. You'll feel better now.

With, or without Ron, the Chamber does a lot of good on our small island. From sponsoring a variety of charity events to providing a large number of deserving student scholarships to focusing the attention of the government and the public on many important business related issues. Saipan Chamber of Commerce meetings are held once monthly, usually in a large hotel meeting room and are often highlighted by an interesting keynote speaker. The public is invited and I would recommend you attend a meeting now and again even if you are not part of the business community. Why? Because it is almost always interesting and you will probably learn some interesting facts. The food is usually pretty good, too. Membership is open to all but you do not have to be a member to attend

Sour Grapes

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



meetings or presentations. Contact Kyle Calabrese, the Chamber's executive director at 233-7150 about membership or about monthly meeting times and places.

■■■

Unfair Advantage

A good friend of mine is having a problem with our government. I'll not reveal his name so as not to embarrass him but I will relate his difficulty because it highlights a recurring problem many citizens on the island face right now. He owes the government but can't pay because the government owes him.

Last year legislation was passed that allowed for monetary offsets, both consensual and unilateral, between citizens and the various government agencies to which they owed funds or from which they were owed monies. That seemed a pretty good idea and a reasonable one. You owe Pocket A and Pocket B (same government pants) owes you; simply offset the debts and move on. As I understand it, that legislation was modified, then repealed, and the truth is I don't know what the status really is now. Perhaps the legislative legal counsel will write an answer and advise citizens where things stand.

In my friend's case, he owes CDA for a loan granted him. The loan is secured by a piece of property that was taken from him back in the early '90s and for which he has not yet been compensated. So DPL, of which CDA is a part, owes this man money and has made a written offer to finally pay, which has been accepted by the owner. Problem is, CDA does not trust DPL to pay off and won't accept the assignment of a written promise of payment from its fellow agency. To make matters worse, 40 million bucks of the land compensation monies were held in trust by CDA itself, making it seem really odd that it didn't just pay itself the amount outstanding since the owner had already assigned any money owed to him back to themselves.

CDA now want to foreclose and take my friend's property from him in five years if the other agency that took the land and has not paid for it does not do so within that five years. My friend says, and I think rightfully: You guys over there in Pocket A go collect from my funds already located in Pocket B and leave me alone.

This is beginning to sound confusing. It isn't. My friend has assets and has offered them in payment. The government agency in question won't accept his payment because payment is coming from its own parent agency, which they apparently don't trust to pay. The same agency that took the land to begin with and has not

See ISLAND on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Dancing around the truth

Our families were very upset with the comments made by some unknown author concerning the Maliti estate as published in the *Marianas Variety* on March 8, 2008, which was supposedly signed by Jesus Tudela Jr.

Whoever wrote the letter either had no knowledge of the true facts, or was willing to re-write history to paint themselves in a better light. We do not want to waste the public's time addressing each untrue statement contained in the letter. But we feel we cannot let some of the slanderous and deceitful claims go without response.

The author claims that Mr. Yana and Mr. Atalig were responsible for settling the claim with the CNMI government which authorized the release of the land compensation funds to the estate of Angel Malite, and Mr. Nutting did nothing to promote the settlement. The truth is that attorneys Atalig and Yana did everything in their power to kill the settlement that was drafted by our attorney and signed by our entire family, as well as Attorney General Pamela Brown. If you need evidence of this fact, the author need only ask Mr. Atalig and Mr. Yana for a copy of the letter they wrote to the Governor's Special Advisor, Howard Willens, dated Feb. 10, 2006 where they specifically rejected the settlement because one, they did not agree to the land compensation settlement funds being held in an escrow account outside of their control; and two, they did not agree to the provision which would prevent them from just taking one-third of the money as their contingency fee.

The author should also ask to see the response from Mr. Willens dated Feb. 15, 2006 where he said: "The Commonwealth is inter-

Are you serious?

Are you serious, Mr. McCue? Your letter is so full of contradictions and hypocrisy that it's laughable. There's too much to describe every little detail so I'll only touch a few but I assure you that if you read your letter carefully you can pick out what I'm talking about. One example would be where you state, "I should have more care and be pro-immigration? Why?" then you later go on to say, "yes, I want to help make people's lives better and I do care about people." So which is it? Do you or don't you care? Do you or don't you want to help?

You claim the U.S. system of government is the worst in the world, yet you offer no solution. I believe we have a great system and if you recall, my solution for our problems with it was to get the politicians who just want to line their pockets out of office. Our system certainly works better when the people's interest are truthfully put first. You ask if I think we should stop elected officials from doing what they think and believe the citizens want them to do. The answer is no. I do think they should do those things. What's more I think they should do what we tell them to do. They are sworn to serve, are they not? That wasn't my point in my last letter. The point I was making is that there is widespread corruption and if the politicians weren't worried about their wallets or if they'll be re-elected, then the system would work better.

Another point of mine was that the government should represent and reflect the views and interests of humanity and that includes a host government and its contract workers. While we're on that subject, why does the CNMI have contract workers at all if they are not needed? I never suggested contract workers be able to vote. I only suggested that host governments have a care for the workers they host. In order to vote they would have to be citizens and if they're citizens then they're no longer contract workers, at which point they would have the voice of vote. I wonder if that's what a lot of people against federalization are scared of. That with federalization, contract workers can start the by-the-book process of becoming a citizen and gaining the right to vote.

You also mention the Philippines and how much aid the U.S. sends to that nation. Can I ask you how much we send to the CNMI? Do you have that figure? Even if it is less than what we send to the

Philippines, why do we send them any at all if they don't want to be federalized and if in the long run they will be fine? If you're making it an issue with the amount we send to the PI then why don't you make it an issue with the amount we send to the CNMI? If they don't want to be federalized then they don't want to be part of the U.S. and by complaining about how much we send to the PI, I can only assume you're also saying we should not send aid to any country so why do we send money to the CNMI? I still haven't gotten an answer as to why should they keep their U.S. citizenship if they don't want to be part of the U.S.

Only when it became apparent that the Attorney General's Office and the Fitial Administration would not back down on the attorney fees issue did Mr. Atalig and Mr. Yana agree to the settlement which Mr. Nutting had drafted, and which all of the heirs had signed. Despite the author's claims that Mr. Nutting attempted to sell the Malite family short in the negotiations, Mr. Nutting did everything in his power not only to get the entire land compensation award for our family, which he did, but also to protect us from having to hand over an unlawful contingent fee to Mr. Atalig and Mr. Yana.

The author claims that the Tudela family was not greedy and only wanted to share the land compensation award with the entire family. If this were true, he should ask Mr. Atalig why on Sept. 1, 1999, he sought and obtained an order which granted Mr. Tudela Sr. the entire \$3,682.00 which was then all of the money known to be a part of the Maliti estate. He should also ask why, six year later, on June 2, 2005, after MPLA decided to award \$3,450,000 in land compensation, Mr. Atalig went back to court to have the original 1999 Order changed to give Mr. Tudela Sr. that same \$3,682.00, or such other sum as may be "modified by Marianas Public Lands Authority (MPLA) award of just compensation in the amount approved by Marianas Public Lands Authority (MPLA)." Mr. Atalig's

Philippines, why do we send them any at all if they don't want to be federalized and if in the long run they will be fine? If you're making it an issue with the amount we send to the PI then why don't you make it an issue with the amount we send to the CNMI? If they don't want to be federalized then they don't want to be part of the U.S. and by complaining about how much we send to the PI, I can only assume you're also saying we should not send aid to any country so why do we send money to the CNMI? I still haven't gotten an answer as to why should they keep their U.S. citizenship if they don't want to be part of the U.S.

Yes, I did say the agreement with the U.S. was not meant to be permanent, then you say, "It's what was agreed to by both sides." What was agreed to? What point are you making? Are you saying the agreement was to be permanent or are you validating my statement that it was not to be permanent? You see, if it was permanent then there would be no issue. No issue at all. We are not conquering a nation, just enforcing an agreement.

Are you really so blind as to ask me why contract workers are in the CNMI instead of working in their own countries? It's the lesser of two evils. Work like a slave for the slavers of other countries or go home and starve. Can't you see that they are humble enough to do so and yet they're able to keep their heads up with pride? It's more than I can say for a great many of the youth in America—instead of working at a burger joint, they prefer to sell drugs or commit crimes for money. Before you ask, yes I did work at several burger joints and various other jobs before joining the merchant marines and working my way up from the bottom to being an engineering officer. So the answer to your question as to why they don't leave is that working here even under these conditions is not as bad as going home and watching their families starve.

You said you do care and you want to help people and by caring and wanting to help, you do mean that you wouldn't want families to starve, don't you? So my answer and your caring and wanting to help logically negates your next few sentences of it being a political issue with one group being pitted against another and so on and so on. You go on to belittle the contract workers by commenting on their intelligence. I, on

motion to have the entire land compensation award to become the property of Mr. Tudela was not evidence of any desire to "share," and if Attorney General Pamela Brown had not filed the complaint to stop the distribution to Mr. Tudela and Mr. Atalig, they might just have gotten away with it.

As we said at the outset we do not want to address every deceitful remark made in the letter which Mr. Tudela Jr. signed. We cannot, however, allow the author to slander, not only our attorney, but also two fair and honest judges, Judge Govendo and Judge Wiseman. To suggest that Judge Wiseman and Judge Govendo's review of the Malite proceedings has been "a choreographical scene in a movie" is despicable. Choreography is a sequence of steps in a dance routine. The only choreography that has taken place in the Maliti case thus far has been the willingness of Mr. Atalig, Mr. Yana, and the author of the March 8th letter to dance around the truth, and their duties to the estate, the heirs and the House of Justice. Their willingness to dance around the truth is one thing and certainly seems to be in their character and can be forgiven. Their willingness to slander the reputation of good and honest people is another, and such slander and libel should not be tolerated and condoned by the *Marianas Variety*.

Esther Sound
Jimmy Sablan
Lourdes Rangamar
Rombert Sinounou

the other hand, would call them very intelligent and I would add on to that, brave. To leave their country and go somewhere new not knowing what's in store for them and hopefully earning some money to make their lives and their families lives easier, to be able to eat, to live, well yes, I would call that intelligent and brave. It's easy for you to belittle someone when you have so much, isn't it?

You also said that, if life on the islands is so bad, then why don't they go home and get some of the 11 billion. Ill ask you, if life is so good, even for the locals, then why do most of them go off island? Do some more research and find out how many of the locals do fly to Guam or even to the PI to get some healthcare that they can't get here. Is it or isn't it proof that the local government is doing so well? You tell them to stay and abide by their word. I see no proof that they haven't abided by their word. I see them fulfilling their contracts to work. What I don't see is fair treatment and humanity. What is wrong with them asking to be treated a little better? If you're saying they cannot do that, then isn't that in fact indentured servitude? You bring up the American Indians, etc. etc., well this isn't about them. This is about the CNMI. You state you will fight. Mr. McCue, what is your motive here? Why do you seem like you have such a hatred for the contract workers, especially Filipinos? What did the contract workers do to you? May I ask what it is you do for work? I mean do you have some kind of vested interest in seeing the CNMI not becoming federalized? Is there a business opportunity for you here if it doesn't? Why the prejudice against people less fortunate than you and I? I wonder how your multicultural family feels about your opinions. Let's say the CNMI doesn't become federalized but in the pretend non-federalizing agreement the US revokes all US citizenship from the CNMI, would you then also give up your blue passport as well? If you could guarantee the locals no retribution from anyone in any form and then ask them if they truly want federalization, I believe you would find a very great many of them would tell you yes. Try it.

W. Julian Rozier
Virginia Beach, VA

ISLAND

From Page 10

yet paid for it. If that sounds fair to you, you must have taken your Economics 101 course from the Attila the Hun College of Slash and Burn Technology.

This is just one example of the many ways in which offsetting debts seems reasonable and should be made available to government agencies and to citizens alike. Not all are this clear cut, not all involve large sums like this. Not all are as easily solved as this one could be but all deserve a reasonable and just resolution. The government should get its due, as should its citizens.

I don't have a particular axe to grind in this respect and don't owe CDA or any other government agency any money. But if I did and they also owed me some money I would think it reasonable if we

just swapped paperwork and both went our merry way. I think my friend and the possibly hundreds of other people who find themselves in the same predicament should be able to do it the easy way instead of the hard way.

Could you folks at the agencies in question please talk with each other and try to settle this? Thank you. I am sure both sides are reasonable and just need the right enabling laws and circumstances to the right thing.

■■■

Island Spirit

I would be remiss if I did not mention a few words about the moving Dedication Ceremony held in honor of local diver, entrepreneur and friend "Ben Ki" Concepcion at Marpi's Grotto dive site over the weekend. Attended by scores of friends and well-wishers, the dedication of a monument to his memory was a heartfelt outpouring of thanks by many on this island and elsewhere around the world

that were touched by Ben. Ben always had a smile on his face and had an aura of generosity and kindness about him.

Almost single-handedly he was responsible for finding and developing the scuba dive sites tourists and residents alike still use today. He, more than anyone, is responsible for developing that part of the tourist experience here on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Ben will be and is now sorely missed by many who knew and loved him. The Monument is a fitting tribute to a life well spent.

■■■

Quote of the week: Promises make debt, and debt makes promises.

—Dutch proverb






What can be added to the happiness of a man who is in health, out of debt and has a clear conscience?

—Adam Smith (1723 – 1790)

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲83° ▼77°	▲83° ▼76°	▲81° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75

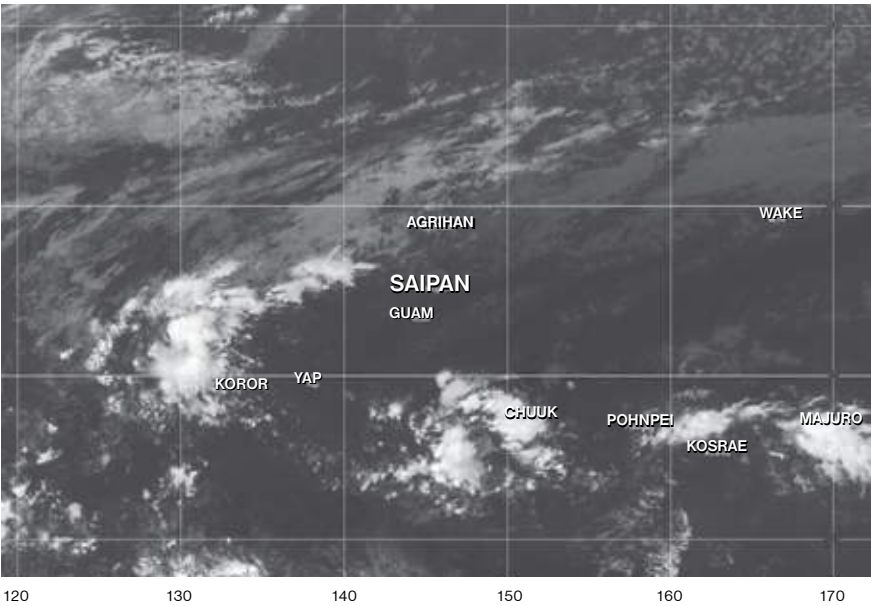
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▼62
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲59 ▼43
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▼68
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲81 ▼67
London	Showers	▲52 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼53
Manila	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲87 ▼67
Miami	Showers	▲79 ▼67
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲48 ▼34
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼41
Paris	Showers	▲51 ▼47
Pusan	Sunny	▲67 ▼48
Rome	Showers	▲53 ▼41
Salem	Rain	▲53 ▼33
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼47
Seoul	Cloudy	▲58 ▼36
Tokyo	Sunny	▲63 ▼41
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲51 ▼34

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:00AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
09:41AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
04:36PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
11:01PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front entered the discussion area near 24N180 and continued southwest to 20N172E. The front than continues as a shearline to 17N160E to 15N140E to 15N130E. Extensive cloud cover and scattered showers are found along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough of low pressure stretches along 130E between 5N and 15N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found northwest of Palau between 7N and 15N from 128E to 133E. Another surface trough extends from 3N148E to 9N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms generated by the trough can be found across a portion of Chuuk State between 2N and 9N from 142E to 153E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Pohnpei between 6N and 8N from 158E to 164E and across the Marshall Islands 180 miles either side of a line that stretches from 8N168E to 1N178E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28AM	6:27PM
Wednesday	6:27AM	6:27PM
Thursday	6:26AM	6:27PM
Friday	6:26AM	6:27PM
Saturday	6:25AM	6:27PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	08:42AM	09:52PM
Wednesday	09:32AM	10:56PM
Thursday	10:26AM	
Friday	11:26AM	12:01AM
Saturday	12:28PM	01:04AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 9, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Saipan-Shanghai MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan MU 589 8:05pm 3:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Bridge Investment opens Tinian office

The Bridge Investment Group's newly renovated plush office on the entire second floor of the Hofschneider Building on top of the Bank of Guam on Tinian was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony around noontime Sunday.

The occasion was attended by Mayor Jose San Nicolas, Sen. Jude Hofschneider, Rep. Edwin Aldan, commissioners of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, visiting investors, and other respected members of the community. Rev. Fr. Ding Marcado performed the blessings of the office.

Rudy Pamintuan, one of Bridge Investment's hotel casino investors, flew in from Chicago with four prospective investors on a combined mission of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony and to introduce the financiers to investment opportunities on Tinian and the CNMI.

San Nicolas viewed the hotel casino and condominium scale model displayed in the office with great interest, saying he is very pleased with the seriousness and commitment of the Bridge Investment Group to develop the island. The mayor

said he is grateful to Howard Li, Eric Wang, and Pamintuan for choosing to invest on Tinian. He said he is equally grateful to Philip Mendiola-Long for his exceptional talent and skill in assisting Bridge Investment Group in overcoming many challenges to get to this point when the company is about to engage in actual construction.

There are two more casino license slots open for Tinian, and San Nicolas welcomes prospective casino investors to apply. Other investment opportunities for casino services and tourist amenities are also available. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas, center, is joined by Sen. Jude Hofschneider, Rep. Edwin Aldan, Rudy Pamintuan, Philip Mendiola-Long, commissioner Peter Q. Cruz of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, and Francisco M. Borja, chairman of the TCGCC, during the opening ceremony for the new offices of Bridge Investment Group on Tinian.

2008 Businesswoman of the Year nominees to be named

TAMUNING, Guam—The third annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program, sponsored by First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business*, brings recognition to businesswomen who have made a difference and raised the bar in the field in which they are involved.

The 2008 nominees will be announced at the annual Maga'haga Award Committee Luncheon for nominees and judges, sponsored by Hyatt Regency Guam, on Wednesday, March 12, 2008,

12pm, at La Mirenda, Hyatt Regency Guam.

The Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business* May/June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the recipient on its cover. Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the April 26

award gala may be purchased from Alice O. Tamayo by calling 632-1161/2 or e-mailing alot@guambakery.com.

Past recipients include Katherine Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairman of the board for Payless Markets Inc., 2006; and Christine Won Pat Baletto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors, 2007.

For any questions or inquiries, contact Faye Varias, editor of *Guam Business* at 671-649-0883 or gb_editor@glimpesof-guam.com.

Investors await retail, inflation data

NEW YORK (AP)—This week on Wall Street, investors will find out if consumers' worries about housing, jobs and rising prices are affecting their spending - and, in turn, posing a further threat to the economy.

The market begins Monday with the Dow Jones industrial average back below 11,900 and having closed at its lowest level since October 2006. Stocks were battered last week by another round of bad news about the economy and the staggering credit market.

This week will have to bring milder readings on the economy, as well as positive signals from the credit markets and corporate America, for investors to regain any confidence. Stocks are at bargain-basement prices - the question is whether investors will find reason to overcome their fears and start taking advantage of them.

The Commerce Department on Thursday releases its February retail sales report. After some mixed monthly sales figures last week from individual retailers, economists surveyed by Thomson Financial/IFR are expecting, on average, retail sales to have edged up by 0.2 percent after a 0.3 percent rise in January.

The government's most recent reports have shown that spending is still technically on the rise, but not because consumers are buying more goods. If not for the rising cost of necessities such as food, gasoline and health care, consumer spending would have been flat in January and December.

These climbing costs are a big reason Wall Street is skeptical that interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve - which meets again next week - are going to be enough to save the economy from recession. If inflation can-

not be controlled, Americans also facing sunken home prices will probably continue to have a hard time paying their bills.

On Friday, the Labor Department releases its gauge of consumer prices for February. Economists are predicting a rise of 0.3 percent in the consumer price index, or a rise of 0.2 percent in the core index, which excludes food and energy costs. In January, consumer prices rose 0.4 percent, or 0.3 percent after stripping out food and energy.

The stock market has tumbled back to its weakest levels in over a year, suffering not only because of the flagging economy but also because of the seized-up credit markets. It's been a vicious cycle - bad economic data has made lenders worried about getting their money back from borrowers, and that pullback in lending is now dragging down businesses' and individuals' ability to spend.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Reports: FBI investigating Countrywide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal authorities are investigating Countrywide Financial Corp. for securities fraud, according to media reports. The FBI is in the early stages of an inquiry into whether company officials misrepresented its financial position and the quality of its mortgage loans. The Wall Street Journal first reported Saturday, citing law enforcement officials and finance executives with knowledge of the development. The Justice Department is also involved in the investigation into the nation's largest mortgage lender, said the New York Times, which also cited anonymous sources who said they were not authorized to discuss ongoing criminal matters.

Ameriprise to begin issuing MasterCards

NEW YORK (AP)—Asset manager Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. is pairing up with MasterCard Inc. to become a credit card lender for the first time, the two companies planned to announce Monday. It looks like a tough time to be

entering the credit card space. Default and delinquency rates are climbing from what had been historically low levels due to the housing slump and a rebound in bankruptcies. For Ameriprise, whose more than 2 million clients are mostly wealthy, underwriting looks fairly low-risk. Meanwhile, the benefits are luring and retaining customers through rewards programs, said Abu Arif, vice president and general manager of payments and deposits for Ameriprise Bank.

Chrysler closing Calif. design studio

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Chrysler LLC is closing its advanced design studio in California as part of a companywide consolidation. Work from the studio in Carlsbad, Calif., will be moved to Chrysler's headquarters in Auburn Hills. About 20 Carlsbad employees will be affected by the closing announced Friday. Design chief Trevor Creed will continue to lead Chrysler's design efforts. Chrysler has been restructuring since Cerberus Capital Management LP, the private equity firm, bought a majority stake in au-

tomaker last summer.

Chile boosts public pensions for poor

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Once a model for privatized social security in dozens of countries from Peru to the U.S., Chile is undertaking the largest-ever overhaul of its pioneer private system, adding sweeping public payouts for low-income seniors. The new \$2 billion-a-year program will expand public pensions to groups left out by private pensions - the poor and self-employed, housewives, street vendors and farmers who saved little for retirement - granting about a quarter of the nation's work force public pensions by 2012. The program, to be signed into law Tuesday, is the most ambitious pension plan for the poor in the region, according to David Titelman, a social security expert at the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. President Michelle Bachelet's so-called "Solidarity Pensions" will supplement, not scrap, the current private pensions, while salaried employees continue paying in to private funds in a combination of state subsidy and free market.

Foreign companies become NYC landlords

NEW YORK (AP)—For foreign companies in New York, it's a huge cost of doing business: Employees move to the city or come here on assignment, and the company has to put them up in temporary corporate housing that routinely exceeds \$4,000 a month.

But a growing number of foreign firms are buying up high-end Manhattan condos and taking on the role of landlord themselves, brokers say. The companies, many from Europe and Asia, say the strategy makes perfect sense because of the booming Manhattan real estate market and the favorable exchange rate.

"The companies used to say, we're only going to have people here for so long, so there's no need to purchase. But now there

is a change from that direction," said Daniel Baum, chief operating officer of The Real Estate Group NY. "They think, even if our people aren't there, this is a good investment opportunity for us in New York City."

The trend mirrors what is happening in the larger New York real estate market among foreign buyers. With their currencies hitting record highs against the sliding U.S. dollar, Europeans are snapping up Manhattan apartments and essentially getting twice the value because of the exchange rate.

The New York real estate market has been on a roll for a number of years, despite the turmoil around the country. The average price of a home in Manhattan in 2007 cost \$1.26 million, up 11 percent from the previous year,

according to the Real Estate Board of New York.

But for some overseas companies, New York is a relative bargain. A survey last year showed that New York was the 15th most expensive city in the world, behind places like London and Moscow.

Foreigners are purchasing nearly twice as much property here as they were two years ago, helping the city survive the nationwide housing crisis, real estate watchers say.

"The exchange rate has really made the economics one of the driving factors here in the condo market," said Jonathan Miller, executive vice president and director of research at real estate research company Radar Logic.

Now the trend is spreading into the corporate world.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Robbery suspect shot at Calif. mall

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a man suspected of robbing a jewelry store at a California mall opened fire in the parking lot before sheriff's deputies shot him. Lt. Dan Dwyer of the Orange County Sheriff's Department says deputies responded to a possible robbery in progress at a store inside The Shops at Mission Viejo just before 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Police say the suspect shot at deputies when they confronted him outside the mall near a parking structure. Deputies returned fire and struck the man. He was treated at a hospital for a gunshot wound but his condition is unknown. There were no reports of injuries. The mall has been shut down.

Hundreds gather to remember UNC student

ATHENS, Ga. (AP)—Heartbroken mourners searched soul and scripture Sunday to understand why someone would fatally shoot a popular University of North Carolina student body president and cut short a life with such promise. For the hundreds gathered at Athens First United Methodist Church, Eve Carson should still be in school, studying political science and biology, teaching science to grade schoolers or planning her next trip abroad. During the nearly two-hour service, there were just as many references to her beauty, intelligence and leadership as to her kindness, dedication to service and concern for others.

Man talks about woman found in dry ice

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—A man who was found with a woman's body packed in dry ice in his hotel room told a newspaper that her death may have been in some way connected to religion. "Everything that happened was for religious reasons," Stephen David Royds told The Orange County Register on Sunday. Royds spoke to the newspaper in a brief interview from jail. He repeated the statement four times but did not elaborate. Detectives found the body of Monique Felicia Trepp, 33, fully clothed inside a large Rubbermaid container late Thursday after arresting Royds at the Fairmont Newport Beach for investigation of selling and possessing cocaine, police Sgt. Evan Sailor said.

4 die in Bethlehem, Pa., row house fire

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP)—A fire tore through a row house on Sunday, killing four children and severely burning at least one other person, authorities said. Several firefighters and a paramedic had minor injuries. A neighbor said a teenage boy jumped from a second-story window to escape the early morning blaze. High winds and the collapse of the building's roof complicated efforts to rescue residents and control the blaze, fire Lt. Joe Chernaskey said. The 4:30 a.m. fire destroyed the middle of three row houses, though the others were also damaged. Each home was occupied, but officials did not immediately know how many people were inside or how many escaped. The four dead children included two boys, ages 11 and 13, and two girls, ages 5 and 7, Northampton County Coroner Zachary Lysek said. Lysek did not release the names of the victims.

Report links Detroit mayor, contracts

DETROIT (AP)—Companies headed by a longtime friend of embattled Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick won millions of dollars in contracts while the friend secretly consulted with the mayor's chief of staff, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Detroit Free Press said records and text messages it obtained indicated that Bobby Ferguson and companies he partnered with have collected at least \$45 million in city contracts.

The text messages from 2002 and 2003 show that then-chief of staff Christine Beatty provided Ferguson with bid strategies and sensitive information on potential projects. The mayor was directly involved in at least one discussion about Ferguson's bid strategy, the Free Press reported.

Ferguson, the city and a lawyer for Beatty all denied wrongdoing in the handling of contracts.

A prosecutor has been investigating whether Kilpatrick and Beatty lied under oath about having an affair during a trial in a whistle-blower lawsuit.

Ferguson Enterprises Inc. companies generally have received good reviews for their work and have been among the lowest bidders on major city projects. But text messages from Beatty's city-issued pager show Ferguson directly and repeatedly communicated with her about pending bids, giving him access that may not have been available to others seeking city contracts, the newspaper said.

In a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press, Ferguson Enterprises said it obtained its work through public bids in which "it was the lowest and most qualified bidder."

The company said it "objects to any suggestion to the contrary and to any attempt to impugn its integrity or the integrity of its principals."

AP probe finds drugs in drinking water

By JEFF DONN, MARTHA MENDOZA
and JUSTIN PRITCHARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

A vast array of pharmaceuticals—including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones—have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans, an Associated Press investigation shows.

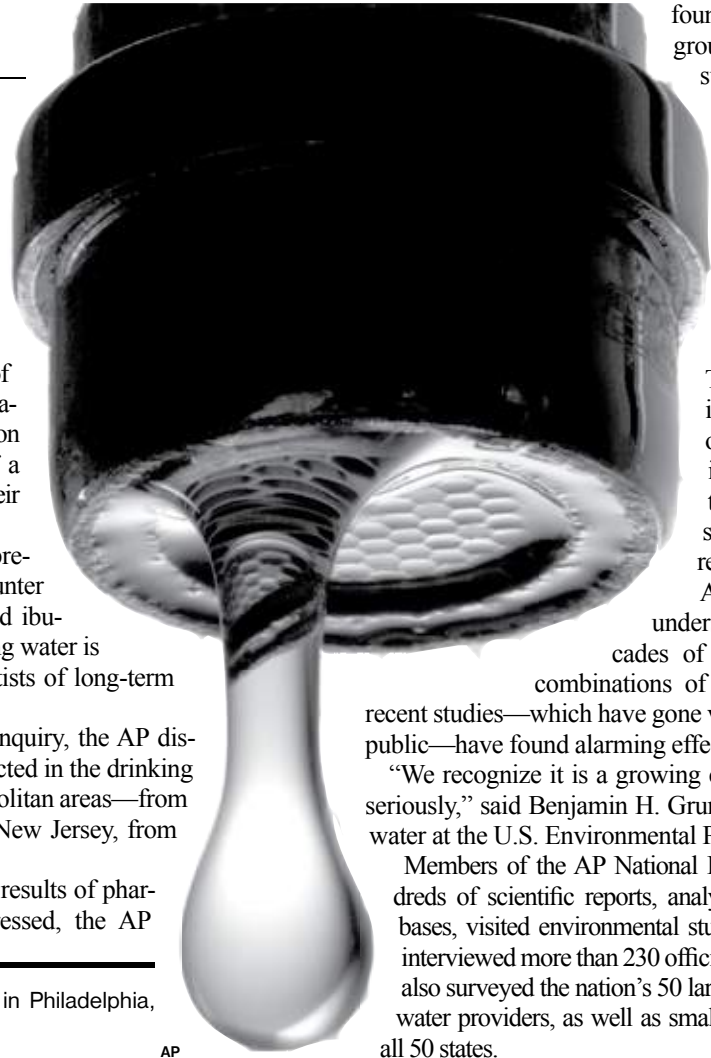
To be sure, the concentrations of these pharmaceuticals are tiny, measured in quantities of parts per billion or trillion, far below the levels of a medical dose. Also, utilities insist their water is safe.

But the presence of so many prescription drugs—and over-the-counter medicines like acetaminophen and ibuprofen—in so much of our drinking water is heightening worries among scientists of long-term consequences to human health.

In the course of a five-month inquiry, the AP discovered that drugs have been detected in the drinking water supplies of 24 major metropolitan areas—from Southern California to Northern New Jersey, from Detroit to Louisville, Ky.

Water providers rarely disclose results of pharmaceutical screenings, unless pressed, the AP

Water is seen dripping from a tap in Philadelphia, Monday, Feb. 4, 2008.



AP

found. For example, the head of a group representing major California suppliers said the public "doesn't know how to interpret the information" and might be unduly alarmed.

How do the drugs get into the water?

People take pills. Their bodies absorb some of the medication, but the rest of it passes through and is flushed down the toilet. The wastewater is treated before it is discharged into reservoirs, rivers or lakes. Then, some of the water is cleansed again at drinking water treatment plants and piped to consumers. But most treatments do not remove all drug residue.

And while researchers do not yet understand the exact risks from decades of persistent exposure to random

combinations of low levels of pharmaceuticals, recent studies—which have gone virtually unnoticed by the general public—have found alarming effects on human cells and wildlife.

"We recognize it is a growing concern and we're taking it very seriously," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, assistant administrator for water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Members of the AP National Investigative Team reviewed hundreds of scientific reports, analyzed federal drinking water databases, visited environmental study sites and treatment plants and interviewed more than 230 officials, academics and scientists. They also surveyed the nation's 50 largest cities and a dozen other major water providers, as well as smaller community water providers in all 50 states.

Fla. mail-in primary plan gains traction

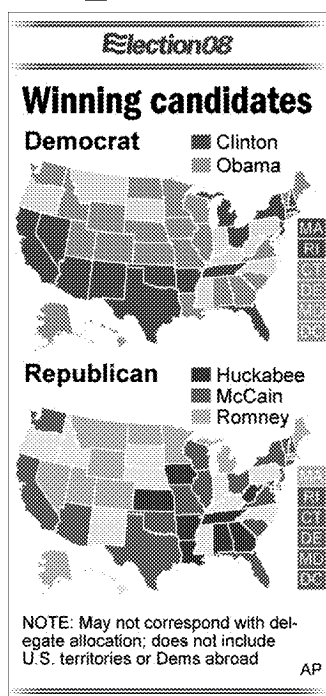


WASHINGTON
(AP) — A

consensus began to emerge Sunday that the best way to give Florida's Democrats a voice in electing a candidate for president lies with the U.S. Postal Service.

The Democratic National Committee stripped Florida and Michigan of all their convention delegates — a total of 313 — for holding their primaries too early, making both contests meaningless. New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton won both states, but no delegates. Her rival, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, did not appear on Michigan's ballot.

But the disqualification of Florida and Michigan has created a headache for the Demo-



cratic party due to the unexpected closeness of the race between Obama and Clinton. Officials from both states are trying to figure out how best to resolve the issue before the national convention in August.

DNC Chairman Howard Dean said a mail-in primary is "actually a very good process."

"Every voter gets a ballot in the mail," the former Vermont governor said on CBS's "Face the Nation." "It's comprehensive, you get to vote if you're in Iraq or in a nursing home. It's not a bad way to do this."

As for who pays, Dean said, "That is a problem," reiterating that the party needs its money for the general election campaign against Republican John McCain.

He also ruled out the state of Florida, where Republican Gov. Charlie Crist has nixed the idea. Dean suggested the state Democratic party might foot the bill. Florida's political parties, unlike the DNC, can accept unlimited contributions.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., supports the mail-in solution, comparing it to an absentee ballot process. He also pinned his hopes on the state party to pay for it.

"Since Governor Dean has said he's not going to do it in the DNC, the Florida Democratic Party's going to have to go out and raise the money," he said. "We're looking at about \$6 million."

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., appeared to be amenable to a mail-in solution for his state, though with less enthusiasm.

Midwest cleans up after record snowfall

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Highway and utility crews worked overtime Sunday to recover from the huge storm that buried Ohio and other parts of the Midwest in snow and tore down power lines elsewhere.

More than 20 inches of snow fell from Friday through Saturday at Columbus, eclipsing the city's previous record of 15.3 inches set in February 1910, the National Weather Service said.

Elsewhere 14 inches fell at Milan, Ind. Up to a foot fell in parts of Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas on Friday.

Many churches in the Columbus area canceled Sunday services

because roads were so slippery.

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, which shut down Saturday, reopened Sunday, but flight delays and cancellations were common as airlines tried to get their schedules back on track, spokesman Todd Payne said.

Delays also cropped up at Port Columbus International Airport, where 90 percent of flights were canceled Saturday.

Ohio had one traffic death linked to the weather, and four men died while shoveling snow. Two traffic deaths were blamed on the storm in western New York state and one in Tennessee. Two people were killed

Friday as tornadoes spun out of the eastern edge of the weather system in Florida.

The storm also made roads slippery and snow-covered in western New York and caused flooding that closed roads in other parts of the state. On Sunday, high wind and falling temperatures created brisk wind chills in much of the state. Tens of thousands were left without electricity.

Northern Maine also got heavy snow as the storm sped into Canada's Maritime Provinces, with 17.5 inches at St. Agatha, and 3 inches of rain fell at Robbinston in the state's eastern corner. A flood watch was

in effect Sunday for wide areas of Maine but officials said there was no widespread flooding.

"We did dodge a bullet. We're just waiting for next shoe to drop," weather service hydrologist Tom Hawley said Sunday in Gray, Maine, just north of Portland, noting the potential for more rain this coming weekend.

At least 8,400 Vermont homes and businesses still had no power Sunday, down from a peak of some 20,000 during the storm Saturday, Central Vermont Public Service Corp. officials said. Repair crews were hampered by ice-covered roads and fallen trees.

Asia

Musharraf opponents form new government

BHURBAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's election winners agreed to form a coalition government Sunday and promised that parliament would restore senior judges fired last year by President Pervez Musharraf in a bid to secure the U.S.-backed leader's continued rule.

In the capital, Islamabad, police fired tear gas at protesters at the residence of the Supreme Court chief suspended by Musharraf one year earlier, a move that triggered the political turbulence still dogging Pakistan's return to democracy.

Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, and Nawaz Sharif, whose government was ousted in Musharraf's 1999 military coup, announced their pact after talks at a resort town in the foothills of the Himalayas.

"We are bound together in the spirit of democracy," Zardari said at a news conference.

The move has been widely expected since their parties won a Feb. 18 election.

The two parties, both moderate and secular, have vowed to fight Islamic extremism, raising Western hopes of stability and renewed commitment to fighting al-Qaida and Taliban militants. They have also pledged to tackle mounting economic problems including inflation and power outages.

Woman earns Silver Star in Afghan war

CAMP SALERNO, Afghanistan (AP)—A 19-year-old medic from Texas will become the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for valor.

Army Spc. Monica Lin Brown saved the lives of fellow soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees in the eastern Paktia province in April 2007, the military said.

After the explosion, which wounded five soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through insurgent gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell less than 100 yards away, the military said.

"I did not really think about anything except for getting the guys to a safer location and getting them taken care of and getting them out of there," Brown told The Associated Press on Saturday at a U.S. base in the eastern province of Khost.

Brown, of Lake Jackson, Texas, is scheduled to receive the Silver Star later this month. She was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia on April 25, 2007, when a bomb struck one of the Humvees.

"We stopped the convoy. I opened up my door and grabbed

my aid bag," Brown said.

She started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded soldiers had scrambled out.

"I assessed the patients to see how bad they were. We tried to move them to a safer location because we were still receiving incoming fire," Brown said.

Four Army nurses in World War II were the first women to receive the Silver Star, though three nurses serving in World War I were awarded the medal posthumously last year, according to the Army's Web site.

Brown, of the 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, said ammunition going off inside the burning Humvee was sending shrapnel in all directions. She said they were sitting in a dangerous spot.

"So we dragged them for 100 or 200 meters, got them away from the Humvee a little bit," she said. "I was in a kind of a robot-mode, did not think about much but getting the guys taken care of."

For Brown, who knew all five wounded soldiers, it became a race to get them all to a safer location. Eventually, they moved the wounded some 500 yards away and treated them on site before putting them on a helicopter for evacuation.



Spc. Monica Lin Brown from Lake Jackson Texas of 82 Air borne stands guard at a forwarded operating base in Khost, Afghanistan, Saturday, March 8, 2008.

China: Terrorists targeted Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police broke up a terror plot targeting the Beijing Olympics, and a flight crew foiled an apparent attempt to crash a Chinese jetliner in a separate case, officials said Sunday.

Wang Lequan, the top Communist Party official in the western region of Xinjiang, said materials seized in a January raid in the regional capital, Urumqi, had described a plot with a purpose "specifically to sabotage the staging of the Beijing Olympics."

"Their goal was very clear," Wang told reporters in Beijing.

Wang cited no other evidence and earlier reports on the raid had made no mention of Olympic targets.

Speaking at the same meeting, Xinjiang's governor said a flight crew prevented an apparent attempt to crash a China Southern flight from Urumqi on Friday. Nur Bekri did not specifically label the incident a terrorist act, saying it remained under investigation. No passengers were injured and police were investi-

gating, he said.

The incidents may give greater force to China's arguments that extreme measures are necessary to ensure social stability and the safety of August's Olympics.

China has ratcheted up anti-terror preparations ahead of the August Games, with the nation's top police official last year labeling terrorism the biggest threat facing the event.

Police found guns, homemade bombs, training materials

and "extremist religious ideological materials" during the Jan. 27 raid in Urumqi, in which two members of the gang were killed and 15 arrested, according to earlier reports.

Chinese forces have for years been battling a low-intensity separatist movement among Xinjiang's Uighurs, a Turkic Muslim people culturally and ethnically distinct from China's Han majority. Iron-fisted Chinese rule has largely suppressed the violence, however, and no major bombing or shooting incidents have been reported in almost a decade.



Wang



Flamboyant former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos, center, reacts to her acquittal on her corruption case during promulgation at a Manila trial court Monday, March 10, 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

RP court acquits Imelda Marcos of illegally transferring money

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Manila court Monday acquitted the flamboyant widow of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos of 32 counts of illegally transferring wealth abroad during her husband's 20-year rule.

The decision by Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court comes after a 17-year trial in the case, involving some US\$863 million in Swiss bank accounts.

Pampilo said the prosecution presented witnesses that

were not directly relevant to the accounts, and failed to prove wrongdoing by Marcos beyond a reasonable doubt.

Marcos and two associates were accused of unlawfully opening 11 dollar accounts in Switzerland under the names of 10 foundations linked to the Marcos family to hide alleged ill-gotten wealth, Pampilo said in a telephone interview.

"The prosecution presented inadmissible evidence," he added.

The money has been frozen

by the government and is being held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank.

Pampilo said the forfeiture proceedings for the funds are separate and being handled by the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan, and that Marcos was acquitted only on the criminal case.

The wealthy socialite, 79, gained fame for the extensive shoe collection and diamond-encrusted tiaras she left behind when she and her husband fled the country after his 1986 fall from power.

Marcos, who later returned and was an unsuccessful presidential candidate in 1998, faces a string of criminal and civil cases related to billions of dollars (euros) allegedly amassed by her family during her husband's two decades in office.

The couple had denied any wrongdoing.

A "people power" revolt ousted Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986, forcing him and his family to flee to Hawaii, where he died in exile in 1989.

Men questioned in death of 15-year-old tourist in India

PANAJI, India (AP) -- Police questioned three men Sunday in an investigation into the death of a 15-year-old British girl whose body was found on a beach in southern India, officials said.

There were unconfirmed reports later Sunday from the Press Trust of India news agency that a man had been formally

arrested. It was unclear whether he was one of those already questioned and police did not say what charges he was facing.

Scarlett Keeling was seen with a group of local men at a bar on the night she died, three of whom were held for questioning by the authorities earlier in the day, police official Bosco George said.

Her partially clothed and bruised body was found Feb. 18 on Anjuna beach in Goa, a tiny state with a coastline crowded with tourists and resorts. Police initially believed she accidentally drowned because she was drunk, but her family accused the police of a cover-up and pushed for a second autopsy and

further investigation.

The second autopsy also showed that she had drowned, officials said, but doctors identified more bruises on her body and recommended that police investigate the death as a murder. The family also believes that Keeling may have been sexually assaulted.

World

Spain's Socialists win re-election

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero won re-election Sunday in a clear endorsement of a record of social change including the legalization of gay marriage and on-demand divorce, reforms once unthinkable in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Spain.

Zapatero also shifted Spanish foreign policy by pulling troops from Iraq in his first term, which he won three days after Islamic militants killed 191 people in a string of bombings against commuter trains.

Voters handed Zapatero his second term despite worries

about a slumping economy, immigration and resurgent Basque separatists, blamed for gunning down a member of the prime minister's party on Friday - timing that recalled the March 11, 2004 Madrid attacks.



Zapatero

With 99.4 percent of the vote counted, Zapatero's Socialist party had 43.7 percent, versus 40.1 percent for the conservative Popular Party, according to the Interior Ministry.

In his next term, Zapatero's main task will be to reboot the once booming but now slowing economy, shaken by the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the U.S. and a cooling con-

struction sector.

"The Spanish people have spoken clearly and decided to start a new era," Zapatero told euphoric supporters outside the party's headquarters in Madrid. "I will govern with a firm but open hand ... I will govern for all of those in need."

While Zapatero's Socialist party picked up seats in the lower house, it fell short of a majority and will have to form some sort of an alliance with smaller regional parties in order to govern.

The opposition conservatives conceded defeat, but took solace from the fact their party also picked up seats, with both parties gaining at the expense of smaller

leftist and regional groups.

"I called the candidate of the Socialist party and wished him luck for the good of Spain," conservative candidate Mariano Rajoy told supporters in Madrid. A large crowd of flag-waving supporters cheered loudly, making it difficult for him to speak.

Zapatero paid tribute to the slain politician, Isaias Carrasco,

saying he should have been celebrating the victory with his family. Carrasco's killing, blamed on the Basque group ETA, jolted Spaniards and prompted both parties to cancel final campaign appearances.

Some in Spain had predicted the killing might prompt a wave of sympathy and a boost at the polls for Zapatero's party, es-

pecially after the Socialist politician's 20-year-old daughter Sandra made an emotional appeal Saturday for people to defy ETA by turning out to vote en masse.

For Rajoy, his rival in Sunday's vote and in 2004, it was the second consecutive defeat, one likely to increase pressure on him to step down as party chief.

Venezuela reopening embassy in Colombia

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela said Sunday that it was restoring full diplomatic ties with Colombia that were broken off in a regional crisis sparked by a cross-border Colombian attack on a leftist rebel camp in Ecuador.

The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry said it was reopening its embassy in Colombia and will allow back Colombian diplomats it expelled last week. It cited an easing of tensions at a summit in the Dominican Republic on Friday, where President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa shook hands with Colombia's U.S.-backed leader, Alvaro Uribe, after a tense debate.

Venezuela described the reconciliation as a "victory for peace and sovereignty."

Chavez ordered the Venezuelan embassy in Bogota closed and sent troops to the border

with Colombia after Uribe's government carried out a March 1 strike in Ecuador that killed 25 people including Raul Reyes, a spokesman and top leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Venezuela also said it was expelling Colombia's ambassador and all diplomatic personnel.

The crisis deescalated at the summit, where Colombia pledged not to follow through on its threat to seek genocide charges against Chavez at an international court for allegedly supporting the FARC, which finances its insurgency through kidnapping and the cocaine trade.

Uribe apologized for the raid and pledged not to violate another nation's sovereignty again. A joint statement issued at the summit also committed all the countries to fighting threats to national stability from

"irregular or criminal groups," a reference to Colombia's accusation that its two neighbors have ties to rebels.

But the agreement didn't eliminate the causes of the crisis: the Colombian insurgency that has spilled across its borders, and a stalemate over international efforts to facilitate a swap of rebel-held hostages for imprisoned guerrillas.

Correa said Saturday on his weekly radio show that it will be "difficult to recover trust" in Uribe's government. Restoring diplomatic ties "will take a little time," he said.

For more than four decades the FARC has been battling to topple successive Colombian governments, with the stated goal of seizing power and more equitably distributing the wealth. The rebels have expressed an ideological affinity for the leftist Chavez.

Medvedev already lampooned Russian-style

MOSCOW (AP)—A joke circulating among Russians these days has Vladimir Putin and Dmitry Medvedev waking up in the Kremlin in 2023 with vicious hangovers.

Putin says to Medvedev: "Which of us is president and which of us is prime minister today?"

"I don't remember," Medvedev replies. "I could be prime minister today."

"Then go fetch some beer," Putin says.

The new odd couple in Russian politics has become ideal fodder for keeping the cherished, and in Soviet times, once dangerous Russian tradition of poking fun at leaders through satirical jokes called "anekdoty."

The latest crop of jokes plays on Russia's new power-sharing agreement - where Medvedev will be sworn in as president on May 7 and Putin, his stern mentor and predecessor, will serve under him as prime minister. The jokes tend to tap into the widespread speculation that it's really Putin who will be the boss.

Puns are crucial in many of the jokes about Medvedev, whose last name stems from the Russian word for bear. In one, Putin is asked if he will have Medvedev's

portrait in his office.

An angry Putin replies: "I'll put his hide on the floor instead."

Anekdoty have long been a litmus test of public opinion and individual liberties in a country where in the past people faced exile, prison or worse for expressing their opinions directly.

"Anekdoty sometimes live for a day and sometimes survive for centuries," said linguist Sandjar Yanyshchev. "They remain the main genre of oral tradition in Russian folk culture."

George Orwell once called the joke "a tiny revolution." Nowhere was that taken more literally than in the Soviet Union, where people circulated jokes at their peril about the nation's communist leaders.

Soviet citizens told stories lampooning Josef Stalin's heavy Georgian accent. His successor, Nikita Khrushchev, was ridiculed for his redneck joviality.

Leonid Brezhnev was mocked for his mumbling speech and his later senility, while Mikhail Gorbachev was ridiculed for his reputedly domineering wife and for his short-lived campaign to eradicate alcoholism.

Even after the Soviet Union, the anekdoty tradition survived.

Russians told tall tales built

around President Boris Yeltsin's heavy drinking, and even the popular Putin could not escape barbed jokes about his KGB history and his use of salty slang.

Anekdoty remained mostly an oral tradition until the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the first printed anthologies often outsold serious novels.

With the emergence of online media and text messages on mobile phones, Russians today can openly joke about their political leaders - although not on national television. "Kukly," or "Puppets," a popular satirical television show on Russian politics, was closed down in 2001 after the Kremlin objected to Putin being lampooned.

Over the years, the Kremlin has tightened controls on the mass media, and that, perhaps, has led to a modest revival of anekdoty.

In the online poll at anekdot.ru, one of the most popular Medvedev jokes is one that clearly pinpoints the puppeteer in Russia's politics.

In the joke, Putin takes Medvedev to a restaurant and orders a steak. "What about the vegetable?" the waiter asks. Putin looks at Medvedev and says, "The vegetable will have steak, too."



Arab workers work at a construction site of new housing units in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Givat Zeev near Jerusalem Sunday, March 9, 2008.

Israel approves West Bank construction

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel announced plans Sunday to build hundreds of homes in the West Bank and disputed east Jerusalem, setting off another crisis in the embattled peace process ahead of the arrival of a key U.S. mediator.

The fatal shooting of eight rabbinical seminary students by a Palestinian resident of Jerusalem dampened low expectations for negotiations that aim for a treaty this year.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the new plans further undermine talks between Israel and the West Bank administration of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"Why do they insist on doing this and humiliating Abu Mazen in front of the Palestinian public," he said, using Abbas' nickname.

Israeli Housing Minister Zeev Boim said the construction would include 350 apartments

in Givat Zeev, a West Bank settlement just outside of Jerusalem, and 750 homes in Pisgat Zeev, a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem.

Israel captured and annexed east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war but Palestinians claim it as their capital and the annexation is not recognized internationally.

Givat Zeev is in one of the three major settlement blocs that Israel intends to retain in any peace agreement. Bush has signaled support for the Israeli position, and the Palestinians have expressed willingness to consider swapping land where settlement blocs stand for equal amounts of Israeli land.

Boim told Israel Radio that the Givat Zeev construction began eight years ago but was suspended because of fighting with the Palestinians.

"When violence subsided, demand grew again and con-

tractors renewed their permits to build there," he said.

Erekat said he has appealed to the U.S. to pressure Israel to halt the projects. Palestinians charge that Israeli settlement expansion is sabotaging their efforts to build a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Abbas promised President Bush last November to work for a peace treaty this year, renewing negotiations that were frozen during seven years of violence. But the talks have already been interrupted several times because of arguments over Israeli construction in disputed areas.

Abbas then suspended the talks because of Israel's Gaza offensive last week to try to stop daily Palestinian rocket barrages on southern Israel. He agreed to renew them only under direct pressure from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Overdrive

The 2008 Mercedes-Benz GL450 sport-utility vehicle is a full-size, all-wheel-drive, luxury SUV, albeit one built with car-like unit-body construction.
THE WASHINGTON POST



2008 MERCEDES-BENZ GL450

For most, a sport-without-utility vehicle

By WARREN BROWN
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK—Life is a matter of surprise and compromise. One leads to the other, often in reverse order. If you can get over the business of things not going as expected, you can learn something and move forward.

Consider what happened last week.

My associate, Ria Manglapus, and I had grand plans to continue our search for the perfect family car. But we discovered that every family's definition of perfection is different, and that neither income nor class nor familial circumstance can accurately predict what definition a family will choose.

Our learning experience occurred in the most prosaic manner. We were expecting delivery of the 2008 V-6 Chevrolet Malibu LTZ to complete our review of that car line. But several hitches developed

in that delivery. A 2008 Mercedes-Benz GL450 sport-utility vehicle arrived instead.

Several problems came with the GL450. It costs at least \$25,000 more than the \$30,000 ceiling Ria and I arbitrarily had set for the "perfect" family car. The GL450 is not a car. It is a full-size, all-wheel-drive, luxury SUV, albeit one built with car-like unit-body construction.

The GL450 comes with a 4.7-liter, 335-horsepower V-8 engine. It is anything but fuel-economical. The thing drinks only premium unleaded gasoline ... and lots of it.

Yet, our otherwise sensible families, the people who originally goaded us into looking for the "perfect" family car, were mostly delighted with the GL450—a vehicle that neither family would consider in the real marketplace. They were impressed by the luxury of the GL450—its panoramic sunroof that framed an azure sky, its supple leather seats, its vast abundance of informational and entertainment electronics, the power and smoothness of its V-8 engine, its seven-passenger seating capacity and, of course, its gleaming Mercedes-Benz tri-star badge.

I drove the GL450 several days before turning over the keys to Ria, an event that brought no small amount of joy to the Manglapus family, which was planning a trip to Bryce Mountain, Va.

I was surprised by the GL450's lightness of being. It has a curb weight—weight with factory-installed equipment and fluids—of 5,280 pounds. Yet, largely due to its tight, aluminum-intensive,

unit-body construction, it drove and handled like a much lighter vehicle. It is no exaggeration to say that its entire road performance was surprisingly, pleasingly sports-like.

Yet, there was no way that I was going to drive the GL450 to New York to assist my daughters in a medical emergency that, as life happens, turned into one of my own. New York has a thing about SUVs; many garages will charge you \$10 to \$20 more a night to park them.

So, I chose to return the tested-and-reviewed 2008 Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid sedan to General Motors' New York office instead.

As I said, my decision brought great rejoicing to the Manglapus clan ... for a while.

"I was happy that we were getting something with seven seats. But it turned out that we could not possibly carry seven people and all of their luggage in the GL450," Ria said, conceding that luxury does not necessarily mean maximum utility.

Still, there was joy in Manglapusville—the leather, the sunroof, the power, the mobile entertainment venue that included video, and the Mercedes-Benz badge.

Then came fill-up time. Horrors! Close to \$85 for a full tank. Ria returned the GL450 with a request: "Please tell me that somewhere there is a seven-passenger or eight-passenger vehicle that can carry more luggage and not cost a fortune to operate."

There is, Ria. In fact there are several of them, all of which we will review in time.

BMW cuts at home, builds up US factories

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—On one side of the Atlantic Ocean, BMW says it will cut 7.5 percent of its work force over two years. On this side of the water, the company says it plans to increase production by more than 50 percent by 2012.

"This is completely driven by the plunge in the dollar," said Greg Gardner with Oliver Wyman, publisher of the Harbour Report on automotive manufacturing activity. "It is untenable to produce at a much higher cost in Germany."

The euro climbed to record heights Friday, reaching \$1.5463 before falling back to \$1.5335 in late trading after the Federal Reserve announced it would provide more cash to banks that need it. That means European goods cost more for Americans to buy.

By building the cars in the U.S., BMW can save money on the lower dollar and on wages since its South Carolina workers make less than German workers, Gardner said.

The declining dollar also means BMW and other foreign

automakers likely will start buying locally for more of the parts used by their U.S. plants, he said.

That shift in production has led to the cuts at home for the Munich-based luxury car maker.

BMW's head of personnel, Ernst Baumann, said last month that 5,600 jobs would be cut by the end of the year. That's on top of 2,500 positions already eliminated. That adds up to 7.5 percent of the company's total work force of almost 108,000, including both permanent and temporary employees.

In the U.S., BMW Manufacturing Co. in Greer expects to increase production to 240,000 cars by 2012, company spokesman Bobby Hitt said last month. That's up from 155,000 last year.

"Conceivably, as the volume increases and the manufacturing system at the Spartanburg (S.C.) plant improves, costs may come down enough to cut prices of their cars," Gardner said.

The company has not said what impact the increase in production will have on employment in

Greer, which is about 4,500 permanent employees and up to 900 temporary employees.

The company has scheduled an announcement for Monday at the BMW Zentrum in Greer, S.C., to discuss an addition to the plant, which makes the X5 and Z4 models. A spokeswoman at the Greer plant did not return phone messages seeking comment.

While luxury car sales are expected to be flat or a little down from last year, "BMW will still show growth," said Jack Nerad, executive market analyst for Irvine, Calif.-based Kelley Blue Book.

The company said BMW Group, which includes the Mini and Rolls-Royce brands, sold 198,628 cars worldwide in January and February, up from 191,357 for the same period last year. Sales of the BMW brand for February rose to 89,983 up from 85,310 for the month last year.

Nerad and the company say launches of new 1-Series models and the X6 also are expected to lift sales in 2008.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS

GL450 luxury does not equate to maximum utility. For utility, you can get more and spend considerably less, and still be plush. Consider the Buick Enclave and Mazda CX-9.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

Superior big-vehicle performance in all three categories. Any big vehicle that rides and handles with the near-precision of a sports car gets our attention. This one does.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

It's a big, luxury Mercedes-Benz. Duh...

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The GL450 is a front-engine, all-wheel-drive, full-size luxury sport-utility vehicle built with unit-body construction, which means it rides more like a sedan than it does a truck. The Mercedes-Benz GL-Class also includes the 320 CDI, which is a less-expensive, considerably more fuel-efficient version, which we prefer. Big spenders can sate their appetites with the super-luxury GL550.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

The standard engine is a 4.7-liter, 32-valve V-8 that develops 335-horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 339 foot-pounds of torque at 2,700 rpm. The engine is mated to a seven-speed automatic transmission that also can be shifted manually.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for seven, but seating space depends on how much cargo is carried. Cargo capacity is 83 cubic feet with middle and rear seats folded down, but it drops to 14.3 cubic feet with those seats up. Fuel capacity is 26.4 gallons of required premium unleaded gasoline. "Required" means required here.

MILEAGE

We barely averaged 17 miles per gallon in highway driving. Let's not even talk about city mileage.

SAFETY

Antilock brakes, side and head air bags, electronic stability and traction control are standard. Rigid body construction is among the best in the business.

PRICE

Base price on the tested GL450 is \$55,900. Dealer's invoice price on base model is \$51,987. Price as tested is \$70,195, including \$13,470 in options (onboard navigation, premium sound and video systems, panoramic roof, leather seats, parking proximity warning system, Mercedes-Benz Distronic system that automatically sets safe driving distance between your vehicle and the car ahead, fog lights and other goodies) and a \$825 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$65,339. Prices sourced from Mercedes-Benz, www.edmunds.com, and www.cars.com, an affiliate of *The Washington Post*.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

The perfect vehicle for people who have lots of cash and want to spend it.

CRUISIN'

1942 Dodge

By GREG ZYLA
© 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, can you tell me what a 1942 Dodge four-door sedan is worth? I just bought it, and it has a decent body and interior. The paint is repainted light green, and I would say it is fair. It is all original, with no radio. —Danny G., Brighton, Iowa

A: Danny, I'd be happy to help. Your '42 Dodge featured a significant grille redesign from 1941, and was one of "new" Dodges of the era. It also featured wider fenders that gave it a more modern look. Under the hoods sits a 230 cubic-inch, six-cylinder engine.

Dodge actually brought production to a halt from 1943 through 1945 for the war years, resuming production in 1946 with similar pieces and tweaked looks from tooling that had sat for several years while we won World War II. Overall, Dodge built about 68,000 cars in 1942.

As for price, your car came from the factory with a list price of \$998, and today is listed by NADA in three ranges, from a low retail of \$6,425 to a mid-range of \$10,150 to a high of \$14,300 for a restored version. I'd say your car lies somewhere between \$6,425 and \$10,150. Remember, these are estimated prices, and what you receive might be more or less, depending on the buyer.

The low price range is for a car that sounds like yours, although I wouldn't be surprised if you told me you paid \$4,000.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

Proceed with care in opposite-sex friendships

By SUSAN BRINK
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's a risky world out there for married folks who are friends with a member of the opposite sex. Just ask Sen. John McCain.

The Republican presidential candidate's relationship with a female lobbyist was the subject of a recent New York Times story and, as a result, subsequent newspaper articles,

blog posts and radio commentary. He has denied that the relationship was anything other than simple friendship.

In his case, the furor centered largely on whether the woman had special political access. In less high-profile cases, the reaction is focused more personally—on whether a friendship is harming a marriage.

It's not that partnered men and women can't be friends with people of the opposite sex. It's just that with divorce rampant—nearly one in two marriages ends in divorce, and even greater percentages of unmar-

ried relationships fizzle—marriage can seem pretty fragile.

"We become concerned when a married person develops a close friendship with a person of the opposite sex," says Thomas Bradbury, psychologist and principal investigator of the Marriage and Family Development Study at the University of California, Los Angeles. "The problem is that these perceptions are not always misplaced. People have affairs, and they can begin in exactly this way."

Men and women in opposite-gender friendships must tread carefully, behavior and psychol-

ogy experts say. They also must remember which relationship comes first.

In part, friendship leading to romance happens because what people are looking for in a mate overlaps with what people look for in friendships—companionship, intimacy and, often, validation that they're attractive to the opposite sex, says April Bleske-Rechek, psychology professor at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire.

When men and women look for a mate, they look for someone who is similar to them in intelligence, attractiveness, world-

view, values, height and weight. The trouble is, friends look for people who are similar in those ways as well.

"People can be friends," Bleske-Rechek says. "But are they just friends? It's a loaded question because friendships and mateships coincide."

Friendships between genders often lead to marriage, but once it does, outside friendships between men and women can complicate people's lives. And the complication is often sexual attraction. Regardless of who is attracted to whom in the friendship, neither gender considers romantic interest a good thing among friends. Only 10 percent of men say that attraction is a benefit to such a friendship, and 1 percent of women see it as a benefit, according to research Bleske-Rechek will present in May at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association.

About 15 percent of men with close female friends say that if their friend is sexually attractive to them, it makes their lives more difficult; 33 percent of women say finding a male friend attractive complicates their lives.

But the difficulty they cite most often is their spouse's jealousy. For about 25 percent of middle-aged men and 45 percent of middle-aged women, an opposite-sex friendship is not OK with the spouse.

The spouse might be onto something. There are, indeed, people who profess friendship but intend to steal another's mate. About half of 236 college-age men and women surveyed in a June 2001 study in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology said they had tried to attract another's partner at least once. And 85 percent of them said someone had tried to attract them away from a mate at least once. The gossipy mess that results has a term, coined in the book "The Evolution of Desire: Strategies of Human Mating," by David Buss, psychology professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

The term is "mate poaching." Research published in the April 2004 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology by an international team found the personality traits of people who try to steal the mates of others, as well as those who succumb, are universal.

"Can already mated people have opposite-sex friendships?" asks David Schmitt, professor of psychology at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., who helped conduct that research. "I think they can."

But the hard data he found suggest that as much as 15 percent of the time, such relationships end in a poach.

No wonder tongues cluck and fingers wag. Wary husbands and wives have an uneasy sense of the temptations out there, even if they trust their spouses.

"It's like when your teenage daughter goes to a concert dressed like a slut," Bleske-Rechek says. "She says, 'I'm not going to do anything.' And her father says, 'It's not you I'm worried about.'"

Estimates of extramarital affairs, one form of mate poaching, range from 20 percent to 50 percent, depending on the sample and methods of multiple studies. With temptation that common, says Helen Fisher, anthropologist at Rutgers University and author of "Why We Love," opposite-sex friends can expect a friendship, at some point, to cross the flirtation line. They need to be ready to deflect temptation. "Start out by putting a picture of your wife or husband on your desk," she says. "And talk about them a lot."

Women should make a point of meeting their male friend's wife, men of meeting the husband of a woman friend. "Meet the wife and fawn on her," Fisher says of her own technique as a single woman. "Choose her side of the table to sit on. Make eye contact with her. If you can tell her you've got a boyfriend you love, that'll help." Make the spouse a friend too, with the goal of defusing jealousy, of making the spouse feel that the friendship is no threat.

To silence wagging tongues, opposite-sex "just friends" shouldn't touch, shouldn't share bites of food over lunch, shouldn't stand too close to each other. Crossing those lines fuels gossip. Worse, it can lead to the slippery slope of greater intimacy. But if people talk, and there's nothing to talk about, "you've got to just flat-out deny it," Fisher says.

Above all, says Stanley Charnofsky, therapist and psychology professor at California State University, Northridge, put your mate first. It's not just an affair that can feel like betrayal, he says.

"Is there such a thing as a non-sexual affair? What if you go for coffee at 10 o'clock every day with someone from work and talk intimately with them," he says. "Then you go home, and you don't talk to your spouse." The platonic friend is getting some of the spouse's major perks, even if it isn't sex.

Keep your spouse informed, he says. Tell your partner about your friend and what you've talked about. Respect a spouse's feelings. "Opposite-sex friendships are possible. They're healthy," Charnofsky says. "But they definitely have to be lower than, lesser than, the one with your mate. They have to be secondary."

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Consolacion Hocog Naputi

January 13, 1947 • March 4, 2008

She is survived by her:

Common-law husband: Jesus M. Mettao

Children and Grandchildren

- Sarah Naputi/Ricardo Borja (Lorilynn Borja/Kevin Piol) (Colleen Borja/John Ngeskebei) Richard Borja Jr., Idalynn Naputi)
- Henry/Harriett Naputi (Darsky Naputi, Darr Naputi, Perissa Naputi, Darton Naputi, Irvin Okaruru)
- George Naputi/Nora Mendiola (Connie Naputi/John Techur) Sean Naputi, Jesse Ryan Naputi, Michael Flores)
- Michael Naputi/Eleanor Dela Cruz (Mikilynn DLC. Naputi, Miguel DLC. Naputi, Michael Vincent Sanchez)
- MaryEvyonne/Larry Surigao (Metgot Larry Surigao, Tonyrose Surigao, Jarren Surigao)
- Vincent Mettao/Diane Villegas (Vianny V. Mettao, Jerome V. Mettao)

Great Grandchildren

- Matias Jesus Borja
- Lydia Lynn Borja
- Jonisha J. N. Borja
- Jomeka J. N. Borja
- Johnathan George N. Techur
- Dariann Naputi

Reared Son and Daughter

- Glen Henry Naputi
- Lorilynn Naputi Borja

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

- Jose H./Hinara Naputi and children/children in-law
- Maria Saralu/Boy Maglaqui and children/children in-law
- Antonio H. Naputi and children/children in-law
- Elizabeth N. Dudley and children/children in-law
- Rosa H./Ambrocio Ayuyu and children/children in-law
- Miguel H. Naputi/Barbara Borja and children/children in-law
- Bernadita H. Naputi and children
- Lucia Ana H. Naputi and children

Auntie: Margarita N. Tenorio (Esang)

In Her new life, she now joins her:

Parents:

- † Enrique Ogo Naputi
- † Sara Hocog Naputi

Parents In-Law:

- † Jose P. Mettao
- † Maria M. Mettao

Brothers and Sister

- † Francisco Hocog Naputi
- † Vicente Hocog Naputi
- † Juanita Hocog Naputi

Brother and Sister In Law

- † James F. Dudley
- † Larry I. Saralu
- † Matilde S. Naputi

Niece: †Zelda N. Ayuyu

In-Law:

- † Carmen M. Saures
- † Nicanor M. Mettao

Sister-In-Law: †Rita S. Mettao

Niece: †Reina S. Nedlic

Nephew: †Raphael S. Mettao

Grandson

- † Jesse Ryan M. Naputi

- † Carmen M. Saures and children/children in-law
- † Nicanor M. Mettao and children/children in-law
- Isidro Mettao and children/children in-law
- Esteban Mettao and children/children in-law
- Ralph/†Rita Mettao and children/children in-law

The body will leave Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, 2008 and will be escorted to Saint Jude Church.

Rosary will follow at 8:30 a.m. Viewing and last respect to follow after the rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

*Thank You - Si Yu's Ma'ase
Please join us in prayers.*

Jesus M. Mettao, Children and Family

Top of the charts

As of March 8, 2008

Top 10 Pop Singles This Week Last Week

1. Flo Rida feat. T-Pain No. 1 "Low" (Poe Boy)
2. Chris Brown No. 2 "With You" (Jive)
3. Rihanna No. 3 "Don't Stop the Music" (SRP/Def Jam)
4. Sara Bareilles No. 5 "Love Song" (Epic)
5. Alicia Keys No. 4 "No One" (JR)
6. Timbaland feat. OneRepublic No. 6 "Apologize" (Mosley/Blackground)
7. Snoop Dogg No. 7 "Sensual Seduction" (DoggyStyle/Geffen)
8. Sean Kingston No. 8 "Take You There" (Beluga Heights)
9. Webbie, Lil' Phat & Lil' Boosie No. 10 "Independent"

Top ten video, DVD

As of March 8, 2008

Top 10 Video Rentals

1. American Gangster (R) Denzel Washington (Universal)
2. Michael Clayton (R) George Clooney (Warner)
3. Gone Baby Gone (R) Casey Affleck (Disney/Miramax)
4. We Own the Night (R) Joaquin Phoenix (Sony Pictures)
5. Rendition (R) Omar Metwally (New Line)
6. The Brave One (R) Jodie Foster (Warner)
7. In the Valley of Elah (R) Tommy Lee Jones (Warner)
8. Chaos (R) Jason Statham (Lionsgate)
9. The Game Plan (PG) Dwayne Johnson (Disney)
10. No Reservations (PG) Catherine Zeta-Jones (Warner)

Top 10 DVD Sales

1. Why Did I Get Married (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
2. We Own the Night (R) (Sony Pictures)
3. Snow Buddies (G) (Walt Disney)
4. No Reservations (PG) (Warner)
5. Gone Baby Gone (R) (Miramax)
6. Across the Universe (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
7. Becoming Jane (PG) (Miramax)
8. The Tyler Perry Collection: What's Done in the Dark... (NR) (Lionsgate)
9. The Game Plan (PG-13) (Walt Disney)
10. The Aristocats (G) (Walt Disney)

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.



Sara Bareilles has a No. 5 with "Love Song."

(Trill/Asylum)

10. Buckcherry No. 9 "Sorry" (Eleven Seven)

Top 10 Albums

1. Jack Johnson No. 1 "Sleep Through the Static" (Brushfire)
2. Alicia Keys No. 3 "As I Am" (MBK/J)
3. Amy Winehouse No. 2 "Back to Black" (Universal Republic)
4. Kidz Bop Kids new entry "Kidz Bop 13" (Razor & Tie)
5. Soundtrack No. 10 "Step Up 2: The Streets" (Atlantic)
6. Soundtrack No. 6 "Juno" (Fox/Rhino)
7. Sara Bareilles No. 21 "Little Voice" (Epic)
8. Chris Cagle new entry "My Life's Been a Country Song" (Capitol Nashville)
9. Mary J. Blige No. 9 "Growing Pains" (Matriarch/Geffen)
10. Taylor Swift No. 7 "Taylor Swift" (Big Machine)

- Top 10 Hot Country Singles
1. Rodney Atkins No. 1 "Cleaning This Gun (Come On In Boy)" (Curb)
 2. Kenny Chesney No. 4 "Shiftwork" (BNA)
 3. Brad Paisley No. 3 "Letter to Me" (Arista Nashville)
 4. Alan Jackson No. 5 "Small Town Southern Man" (Arista Nashville)
 5. Carrie Underwood No. 7 "All-American Girl" (Arista)
 6. Gary Allan No. 2 "Watching Airplanes" (MCA Nashville)
 7. Chuck Wicks No. 9 "Stealing Cinderella" (RCA)
 8. Billy Ray Cyrus with Miley Cyrus No. 6 "Ready, Set, Don't Go" (Walt Disney)
 9. Chris Cagle No. 11 "What Kinda Gone" (Capitol Nashville)
 10. Trace Adkins No. 12 "You're Gonna Miss This" (Capitol Nashville)
- © 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.



was summoned by the Lord to her new home in Heaven.

As she walked through the gate of Paradise, she was welcomed by her grandparents **Dr. Francisco Taman Palacios and Eli and Jeanette Verdrager.**

Her wit, laughter, gifts, and loving memories will be missed and forever cherished by her

Parents: **Rex I. Palacios, and William (Billy) T. & Rita H. Atkins**

Siblings: **Brian, Christina, Gabriella, Patricia, Jeremy & Lauren**

Paternal Grandmother: **Maria Indalecio Palacios**

together with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, and nieces, her church, and her many friends and "moms".

Masses of intentions are offered daily at 6:00 a.m. and rosary is prayed at 7:00 p.m., both at Kristo Rai Church.

A Memorial Service for our beloved LIZ will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at Kristo Rai Church at 9:00 a.m. followed by Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m.

On Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. our beloved LIZ will leave Saipan for Florida where she will be laid to rest.

Your words of comfort and prayers are humbly appreciated.

**Rex I. Palacios & children
William (Billy) & Rita H. Atkins & children**



'10,000 B.C.' hunts up \$35.7 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie-goers went hunting for their inner caveman as they sat in the dark for the prehistoric adventure "10,000 B.C.," which led the weekend box office with \$35.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Warner Bros. visual effects spectacle, which follows a band of people struggling to survive amid woolly mammoths, saber-toothed tigers and human marauders, also took in \$25.3 million in 20 overseas markets where it began rolling out Wednesday.

Opening in second place was Disney's Martin Lawrence comedy "College Road Trip," which pulled in \$14 million. Lawrence stars as an overprotective dad who tags along with

his daughter (Raven-Symone) on her girls-only trek to choose a college.

Both movies put in decent numbers despite bad reviews.

"10,000 B.C." came in well behind the openings of past

for this time of year," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner.

Fellman said Emmerich's films tend to do better internationally, including "The Day After Tomorrow," which topped out at \$186.7 million domestically and did nearly twice that business overseas.

"10,000 B.C." opened at No. 1 in 19 of its 20 foreign markets, among them Spain, Mexico, Germany and Australia, said Veronica Kwan-Rubinek, head of international distribution for Warner.

Overall business was off compared to the same time frame a year ago, an almost inevitable decline given that the blockbuster "300" opened with \$71 million over that weekend in

2007, twice the haul of "10,000 B.C." The top-12 movies took in \$91.8 million, down 34 percent from the same weekend last year.

It was the fourth straight weekend that revenues fell, cutting into a surge in movie-going earlier this year. Attendance is up just 0.5 percent so far in 2008 compared to a year ago, according to box office tracker Media By Numbers.

"The advantage we've been enjoying over the last couple of months has really taken a punch in the gut," said Paul Dergarabedian, Media By Numbers president.

The previous weekend's top flick, New Line Cinema's basketball comedy "Semi-Pro" starring Will Ferrell, tumbled to fourth place with \$5.8 million. That brought its 10-day total to just \$24.7 million, a poor showing for a Ferrell comedy.

Debating at No. 5 was Lionsgate's heist thriller "The Bank Job," which opened with \$5.7 million. Jason Statham stars as a former crook drawn back to a life of crime when he's lured into robbing a Lloyd's of London bank vault.

In narrower release, Focus Features' 1930s comedy "Miss

Pettigrew Lives for a Day" opened with \$2.5 million in 535 theaters for an average of \$4,750 a cinema, compared to \$10,478 in 3,410 theaters for "10,000 B.C." and \$5,174 in 2,706 locations for "College Road Trip."

"Miss Pettigrew" stars Frances McDormand as a destitute British governess who bluffs her way into a gig as social secretary to a flighty American actress (Amy Adams).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "10,000 B.C.," \$35.7 million.
2. "College Road Trip," \$14 million.
3. "Vantage Point," \$7.5 million.
4. "Semi-Pro," \$5.8 million.
5. "The Bank Job," \$5.7 million.
6. "The Spiderwick Chronicles," \$4.8 million.
7. "The Other Boleyn Girl," \$4 million.
8. "Jumper," \$3.8 million.
9. "Step Up 2 the Streets," \$3 million.
10. "Fool's Gold," \$2.8 million.

blockbusters from director Roland Emmerich ("Independence Day," "Godzilla"), whose best debut came four years ago with "The Day After Tomorrow" at \$68.7 million.

"Those movies opened up in the summer. We're very strong

Prose to serve 2nd term as PEN leader

NEW YORK (AP)—When Francine Prose agreed a year ago to serve as president of the American center of PEN, the international writers organization, her excitement at taking the job was weighted slightly by concerns she wouldn't have time for other projects.

Prose, who runs unopposed for a second one-year term as PEN American members meet this week to select a president for 2008, has finished a novel that comes out this fall and has started another book. She read hundreds of works as a judge for the National Book Awards and enjoyed time with her baby granddaughter.



Prose

"If I didn't get to something, it wasn't PEN's fault," Prose, whose novels include "Blue Angel" and "A Changed Man," said with a laugh during a recent

telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Prose, 59, said her biggest goal for PEN next year is increasing involvement in Readers & Writers, a program that sends authors to visit schools and community centers. She notes that PEN has "this huge labor pool of writers and since we know that funding for the arts has been cut back, I really want to improve and revitalize our writers in the school program."

PEN (which, roughly, stands for Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists and Novelists) was founded in London in 1921, in the aftermath of World War I, with the "unshakable conviction that if the writers of the world could learn to stretch out their hands to each other, the nations of the world could learn in time to do the same." The American Center was started a year later.

Membership in the PEN American Center is up from just under 2,800 in 2001 to nearly 3,330 in 2008. As she noted upon becoming president in 2007, Prose says that since Sept. 11, 2001, and the passing of the Patriot Act, the organization has been paying more attention to human rights in the United States.

NYC couple wed by Kathy Griffin

NEW YORK (AP)—She has been a sitcom character, a sometime talk show host and the centerpiece of her own reality show. Now Kathy Griffin has appeared in an unlikely new role—minister.

The often provocative comedian—who raised some Christian groups' hackles by joking about Jesus while accepting an Emmy Award last September—became ordained through an online church to officiate Saturday at the New York wedding of two fans, Brian Anstey and Elka Shapiro.

"The request came in, and how could I say no?" Griffin, 47, told the Daily News. "I love that this couple just want to have fun. They're my kind of people."

Anstey, 31, is a fifth-grade teacher; Shapiro, 29, is a marketing director. Neither is affiliated with a religion, and "the major factor in our relationship is laughter," Shapiro said.

Griffin flew in from Los Angeles for the wedding at the Queens County Farm Museum. She performed a 10-minute service that ranged from telling raunchy jokes to having the bride recite the reception menu, according to the Daily News.

"It's so unusual and something we'll always remember," Shapiro said.

Viewers of Griffin's reality show, "My Life on the D-List,"



Comedian Kathy Griffin arrives at the "Us Weekly Hot Hollywood 2007" party in Los Angeles, in this Sept. 26, 2007 file photo.

will be able to see the ceremony for themselves in June, when an episode involving the wedding is to air on Bravo.

Griffin said she was ordained online by the Universal Life Church and completed additional paperwork to meet New York

State requirements. But she insisted her role in the wedding was a one-night-only performance.

Besides "D-List," Griffin has appeared as an acerbic columnist on the NBC sitcom "Suddenly Susan" and as a guest host of the ABC talk show "The View."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies. GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$4.75 Bargain Matinees-All Shows Before 6PM
\$4.00 All Day Admission For Seniors & Kids
\$5.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.00 Military with valid ID

THRIFTY TUESDAYS \$4.75 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.GOHOLLYWOOD.COM



For Friday, March 7 through Thursday, March 13 only!

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★



10,000 B.C.

Friday 4:30 7:10 9:50
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10

Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
 Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Synopsis

In a remote mountain tribe, the young hunter D'Leh has found his heart's passion—the beautiful Evolet. But when a band of mysterious warlords raid his village and kidnap Evolet, D'Leh leads a small group of hunters to pursue the warlords to the end of the world to save her. As they venture into unknown lands for the first time, the group discovers there are civilizations beyond their own and that mankind's reach is far greater than they ever knew.



Rambo

Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15

Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
 Action, Adventure • Rated R

Synopsis

John Rambo has retreated to northern Thailand, where he's running a longboat on the Salween River. On the nearby Thai-Burma (Myanmar) border, the world's longest-running civil war, the Burmese-Karen conflict, rages into its 60th year. But Rambo, who lives a solitary, simple life in the mountains and jungles fishing and catching poisonous snakes to sell, has long given up fighting, even as medics, mercenaries, rebels and peace workers pass by on their way to the war-torn region.



Semi-Pro

Friday 4:25 7:30 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30

Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson
 Comedy, Sports • Rated R



Vantage Point

Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00

Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker
 Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13



Bahay Kubo

Friday 4:20 @ @
 Saturday 1:15 4:20 @ @
 Sunday 1:15 4:20 @ @
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @

Maricel Soriano, Eric Quizon
 Comedy, Drama • Rated NR



Untraceable

Friday @ @ 7:05 9:55
 Saturday @ @ 7:05 9:55
 Sunday @ @ 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs @ 7:05

Diane Lane, Billy Burke
 Drama, Thriller, Crime • Rated R



The Spiderwick Chronicles

Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20

Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
 Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Jumper

Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25

Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
 Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

[www.gohollywood.com](http://WWW.GOHOLLYWOOD.COM)

Ex-model Waris Dirie found in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—Police on Friday found Waris Dirie, three days after the Somali-born model who launched a worldwide campaign against female genital mutilation had vanished.

Dirie, 43, appeared to be in good health and was being questioned by police about the disappearance, said Estelle Arpigny, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office.

She declined to give further details, saying it was unclear what had happened since Dirie vanished early Wednesday. Belgian media reports said police found her Friday afternoon walking the Brussels' Grand Place square.

Hours earlier, police had announced they were launching a nationwide search for the former model, who had last been seen

getting into a cab after a mix-up over a hotel.

Dirie gained international fame as a model posing in Chanel ads and acting in the 1987 James Bond movie "The Living Daylights" before launching her campaign against female genital mutilation in 1996.

She shocked the world with a best-selling book "Desert Flower" that described how her genitals were sliced off with a dirty razor blade without anesthesia, and then stitched together.

Now a U.N. goodwill ambas-



Dirie

sador, she was due to speak on genital mutilation in Brussels at two conferences on women's rights organized by the European Union, including one on Thursday attended by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

News of Dirie's disappearance came a week after French police said they had found the body of another former model of African origin who had campaigned against female genital mutilation. Guinean-born Katoucha Niane was discovered floating in the River

Seine in Paris.

The French police said an autopsy showed no signs of foul play, raising the possibility that she may have fallen accidentally into the river. However, Katoucha's family members say they suspect homicide.

Dirie's manager, Walter Lutschinger, said she had been involved in an altercation in a hotel reception area after a taxi driver took her to the wrong branch of the Sofitel hotel chain. The police were called and drove Dirie around Brussels looking for the correct hotel because she had apparently forgotten where she was staying.

Christian Siriano, from the Bay to 'Runway'

By **RACHEL BECKMAN**
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—As a teenager, fashion designer Christian Siriano left an Annapolis, Md., mall hair salon for London and dreams of making it big in the industry. Wednesday night, if he can edge out two other designers, he'll win \$100,000 in the season finale of Bravo's hit reality show "Project Runway."

Siriano, 22, is known to "Runway" viewers as the pipsqueak who flits around the workroom declaring his own clothes "fierce" and everyone else's "a hot mess." Some love him (he won this season's fan-favorite award), some hate him ("nails on a chalkboard," according to one finalist), but everyone notices him—and not only because his hair defies gravity.

The Annapolis native survived 12 rounds of design challenges along with Rami Kashou and Jillian Lewis. And his trajectory from shampooing hair at Bubbles to showing his collection under the tents of New York City's Bryant Park last month has all been by the seat of his skinny, well-sewn pants. After graduating from the Baltimore School for the Arts, he moved to London to attend American InterContinental University and landed jobs with edgy designers Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen.

We chatted by phone last week with Bravo's boy wonder about his plans, his reflections and the "fabulous divas" of Annapolis.

Q. Some people say you're arrogant. Are you?

A. No, I don't think I'm arrogant. I am confident and I work so hard to be confident. If I wasn't talented, then I wouldn't be as confident. I'm young and I have a lot of experience and I learn quickly.

Q. How does your upbringing in Annapolis, land o' boat shoes, affect you as a designer?

A. I mean, luckily—it is really preppy—but for me, I can take that creatively. Being in Annapolis with all the boating stuff, the yachts, the netting,



THE WASHINGTON POST

In an interview, fashion designer Christian Siriano, one of the finalists on Bravo's hit reality show "Project Runway," talks about his plans, his reflections and the "fabulous divas" of Annapolis, Md., his home town.

that's really inspiring.

But I'll tell you, the funny thing is there's so much money that a lot of the people travel around the world. They're so cultured. It's not a Podunk town in Kentucky. There are sophisticated people, so that helps a lot. Trust me, that diva woman is out there in Annapolis.

Q. How does your hair background influence your fashion designs?

A. Working in a salon, you look at trends all day long. You're looking at color all the time, what new products are coming out. You're a part of the fashion industry, especially if you're working in a higher-end salon. There's no judgment there. You can wear whatever, be whatever, do whatever you want. You can be so creative and never be penalized for it.

Q. Where does your drive come from?

A. I was just, like, motivated forever. I just wanted to be something great.

Q. So, does how you're depicted on the show resemble what you are really like?

A. It's really scary and embarrassing, but who I am on TV is really who I am in life.

Q. Do you have any qualms with how you're edited and portrayed on the show?

A. No. I mean, sometimes they show a lot of me being sassy and they don't show me helping people. And they didn't show my family (on the Feb. 27 home-visits episode)!

Q. What's next?

A. I'm working on my own line to show next season, so hopefully I'll be under the tents again. I'm working on a wedding dress; that's going to be fun. I'm really going to focus on showing a really amazing collection for next season. I've had some interest from some buyers, so who knows? You might see my clothes in stores.

Mom gets plenty of support to kick sons out the door

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: Please tell "Stressed-Out Mom," the retired woman whose two (employed) sons, ages 22 and 24, live with her for free (Jan. 7), that the only "mistake" she has made was not requiring them to behave like adults before now. Taking responsibility and being accountable are signs of adulthood. Taking advantage of anyone, including Mom, and being a free-loader are signs of immaturity.

—RAISING SONS IN WHARTON, N.J.

Dear Abby

DEAR RAISING SONS: My readers overwhelmingly agree the time has come for "Stressed-Out's" "boys" to act like the adults they are and stop behaving like children. If they refuse to cooperate, then it's time for mom to show them the door—to the real world. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As you already know, "Stressed-Out's" problem is nothing new to baby boomer parents. We have brought it on ourselves.

We've enjoyed better economic times and freedom than our parents did. Because of this, we have actually encouraged our children to be more materialistic and irresponsible. We haven't helped them develop skills to manage their affairs and become responsible human beings.

If "Stressed-Out" finds it difficult to get her grown sons to pay a minimal sum to ease her financial situation at retirement, she should consider moving to a smaller place, which will be less comfortable for them.

I am preparing my teenage son to become independent and self-sufficient. I'd rather have the stress involved in doing it now than face it later. We parents owe this to our children and society in general.

—INGRID D., OTTAWA, CANADA

DEAR ABBY: I, too, have an adult son who lives with me. I had never asked him to contribute to the household expenses until last year when I became disabled and unable to work. He jumped at the chance to help me. He has assumed many of the day-to-day responsibilities of running the household and contributes half the cost of the mortgage and utilities.

There is nothing wrong with adult children enjoying the benefits of living at home, as long as they appreciate what they've been given and are prepared to give back when it's their turn.

—CHERYL M., DUBLIN, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing in regard to the two adult males who still live with their mother. She said she had recently retired and her income has dropped by half. Her sons are whining about having to help her pay her bills? Welcome to reality! Those of us who have grown into adults pay bills. We do our part. Their mom has done her job. The time has come for them to quit being spoiled little boys and become men.

—TERRI T., TRENTON, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: I have some advice for that recently retired mom who generously offered her two deadbeat sons the low amount of \$30 a week rent. Take out the following in the local paper: "2 rooms for rent. \$50 a week each. Home cooking included. Available NOW." Then circle it, cut it out and tape it to the fridge. When the calls start coming, they'll be begging to pay that 30 bucks!

—MIKE R., SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Should an overnight guest in someone's home remake the bed on the day he or she is leaving, or strip off the sheets since they are going to be washed anyway?

—CHECKING OUT IN CANADA

DEAR CHECKING OUT: Because the sheets will have to be laundered before the bed is made up for the next person using it, the sheets should be stripped. But whether your host would prefer to be the one who does it is something only he or she can answer, so that's whom you should ask.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

'Discipline' pays off for Jackson

By **TODD MARTENS**
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Janet Jackson racks up another No. 1 album with her latest, "Discipline," which leads the U.S. pop chart after selling 181,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Billboard notes that this is Jackson's sixth chart-topper, but it controls the chart with a significantly smaller first-week sales figure than Jackson's previous effort, "20 Y.O." That album led the tally with 296,000 copies when it came out in 2006.

Jackson is one of three new entries in the Top 10, along with the latest from R&B singer Erykah Badu, "New Amerykah Part One (4th World War)," entering at No. 2 with 124,000 copies. Southern rapper Webbie lands at No. 4 with his "Savage Life 2," which sold 72,000 copies in its first week.

The Feb. 24 Oscars played a role on this week's chart. The soundtrack to "Once," which took the original song Academy Award for "Falling Slowly," jumps into the Top 10, up 24 slots to No. 7 on a 143 percent sales increase. The album sold 47,000 more copies last week, bringing its total to 429,000 copies, and the song has logged 94,000 paid downloads, nearly half of those since the Oscar broadcast.

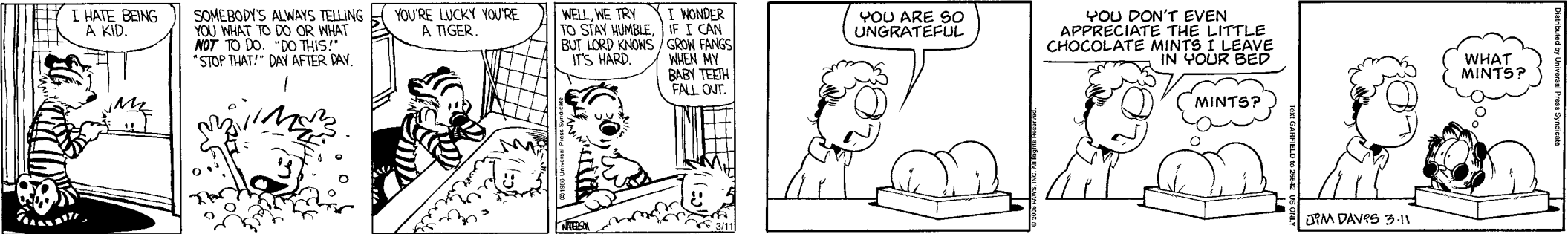
Other notable newcomers this week include Shawty Lo's "Units in the City," which enters at No. 13 after selling 31,000 copies, and Dolly Parton, whose "Backwoods Barbie" bows at No. 17 on the strength of 27,000 copies. The album is Parton's first on her own label.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield®**

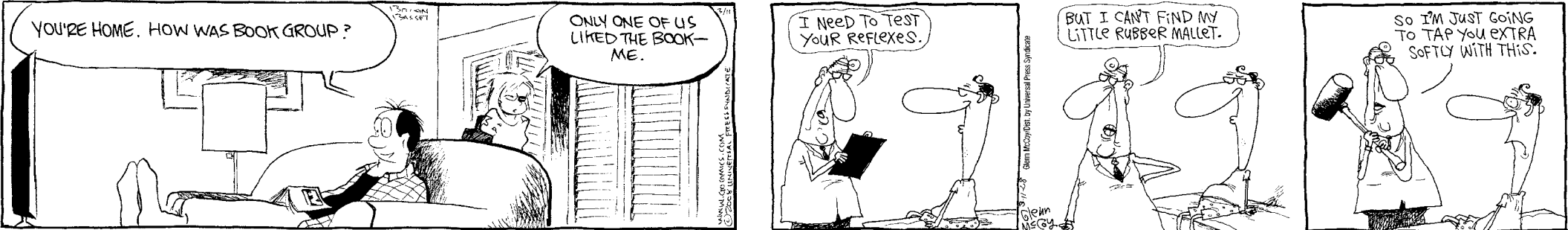
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset **The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Pavlova portrayal 5 Altar affirmative 8 Despot 12 Stereo setup 13 Present 14 Medal earner 15 First person? 16 Hazelnuts 18 He served between Calvin and Franklin 20 Accumulate 21 NAFTA signatory 22 Showman Ziegfeld 23 Necklace fastener 26 Scott Adams comic strip 30 "— the fields we go" 31 "The Simpsons" network 32 Seek damages 33 Unit of brightness

36 Sticky stuff 38 Beam of light 39 Slugger's prop 40 Point in an orbit 43 Comedy Central's comedian Stephen 47 16th-century weapons (Var.) 49 Needle case 50 Ontario neighbor 51 Apr. addressee 52 Wield scissors 53 Charts 54 Awareness-raising ad (Abbr.)

55 Gets some sun 57 DOWN 1 Persian bigwig 2 Broad 3 In the distance 4 Halo 5 Further down the page 6 Porter's "Let's —" 7 Hooter 8 "1 vs. 100" 9 Antitoxins — and crafts 11 Colonial seamstress 17 Target for 39-Across 19 Kreskin's claim 22 Repair 23 Army rank (Abbr.) 24 Meadow 25 Upper limb 26 Speck 27 Ar follower 28 Trench 29 27-Down follower 31 Sauté 34 Pays under the table 35 Facility 36 Chum 37 Optimally 39 "Blame it on the — Nova" 40 Throat clearer 41 Brazilian rubber — 42 of the tongue 43 Middles (Abbr.) 44 Sicilian spouter 45 Destroy 46 Gratuities 48 Tear

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	A	R	N	G	Y	M	S	T	O	W	
O	R	E	O	L	E	I	C	U	J	O	
K	I	E	V	I	N	T	H	E	R	A	W
S	A	D	I	S	M	T	E	N	N	I	S
C	A	P	T	W	I	T					
S	A	B	E	R	S	A	W	C	A	R	D
I	D	A	D	E	B	I	T	I	C	E	
S	E	R	F	S	O	N	I	N	L	A	W
S	E	A	O	N	C	E					
A	T	T	I	L	A	O	K	A	Y	E	D
M	O	O	S	E	J	A	W	R	O	T	E
M	O	O	T	A	G	E	B	R	A	E	
O	N	L	Y	R	O	D	Y	E	L	P	

Yesterday's answer 3-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Thora Birch, 26; LeToya Luckett, 27; Bobby McFerrin, 58; Sam Donaldson, 74

Happy Birthday: Avoid letting emotional issues take top priority. Concentrate on your personal, professional or educational advancement. Your contributions will lead you to greater expectations in the future. You can build a solid base from which to launch whatever you want to do. Positive thought will bring good results and few setbacks. Your numbers are 9, 15, 21, 28, 32, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Much can be accomplished if you take the time to discover part time opportunities for making extra cash. A professional move can be made if you aren't happy with your current situation. Avoid anger—it's a waste of time. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on doing things on your own. Disappointment is apparent if you rely on promises being made. Deception will cloud your vision. Listen to your common sense, not your emotional urges. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Acting out over something that may not amount to much will put you in a vulnerable position. You can get what you want if you are clever and conduct yourself in an orderly fashion. Stability and common sense will win in the end. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Set up a meeting or talk to someone who has experience in an area you want to know more about. Consider a partnership with someone of similar interests or goals. Make some

changes to the way you do things if you want to get ahead. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will get unexpected help when you need it. If you live up to the expectations that others have for you, it will prime you for an even greater future. You will become the one everyone looks up to. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're in the right place at the right time. Travel, moves or getting together with people who can offer you wisdom, clarity or the support you need will lead to your success. Now is the time to push for what you want. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your heart on the table and confess how you really feel if you are in a relationship. If you are not, get out and mingle and you soon will be. Be creative, get involved in a new hobby or do something to update your look. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It may be difficult to deal with personal matters today. Your time will be better spent with financial matters. An investment can change your future and it is apparent that money will come to you from an unusual source. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you let someone limit you, it will set a standard for future issues. Deal with people who are on the same page as you are. People who are too conservative will not be able to relate to your vision. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do something that will change your financial

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

position today. Take on a new project, add value to your home, purchase real estate or make an investment that will grow in time. There is a deal to be made that will help you get ahead. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you are too vocal about the way you feel, you may need to apologize for something you say that was based on a poor assumption. Give the ones you love space to grow and experience what life has to offer. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what you can to help others without doing everything for them. Your high energy coupled with know-how and pizzazz will put you in a good position when it comes to partnerships, professional dealings and your home environment. ****

Birthday Baby: You are tough, determined and adaptable. You are charming and entertaining, with a strong intuition and relentless willpower.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					6	8	4			
				4	8		1	5	7	
			5		3				9	
					1		6	2		
			6		5					
	9	7		4						
5			3		4					
4	1	6		9	2					
	2	3	8							

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/11

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIVING IN A FISHBOWL Solution: 9 letters

E S P F G S D G A S C H Y S S
V C L L I O M Q N I T F S E T
A O A D O S U E M I I O T A R
W S E F H A H I T R V A N W A
S S E G R E M B U S R I A E N
E M S I E U X P O B Y S L E S
L A U O T M S A E W T S P D P
C M A F L O A T G E L H O L A
Y M M E I U R R N O O I A C R
C A M R F E T E I S N S G S E
S L O U V R R E P N T G E H N
E S N N E G T H A I E N O E T
Z G I T Y A A I C G A F I L L
I M A I N T A I N P L C O L D
S W C K E C N A L A B A A S L

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 3/11

Algae, Ammonia, Aquarium, Balance, Cold, Cycles, Ecosystem, Energy, Fill, Filter, Fishbowl, Float, Flow, Food, Fungi, Glass, Gold, Hexagon, Invertebrates, Light, Living, Maintain, Mammals, Marine, Mimic, Panes, Phosphate, Plants, Plastic, Purify, Seaweed, Shells, Sides, Sizes, Solute, Stones, Submerge, Surface, Tank, Transparent, Waste, Water, Wave

Yesterday's Answer: Alarm

Treasury 4 is available to order by sending check or money order for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling (\$14.20 total). U.S. funds only for the first volume. \$1.50 pph for each additional volume. To Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-295-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



Worldwide Company.
Need ambitious self-starters. Meeting at Fiesta Resort, 8:00PM March 13 or 9:00AM March 17.
Xango distributors welcome to bring guests.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

DanDan House for Lease/Rent. 2 story concrete house, walled and gated, unfurnished, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, walk-in closet, carport, outside shower, front porch, basement, large outside kitchen, gazebo, panoramic view of Lailau Bay, rooftop patio, & BBQ, private party area, safe, secure & private comfortable home. Call 288-5264 or 322-0268 view by appointment.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

2 br furnished apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Road. Close to beach walking path. \$400/mo. Call 483-1974.

3 Bedroom House for Rent.
San Vicente area.
Telephone No.: 483-8295

Apartment for Rent in Aslito.
Fully furnished, 24 hrs water. Safe location. Call 256-3864/287-7769

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 OPERATION MANAGER (SUNT 0017)
Salary:\$4.00-\$5.50/hour. Benefits: Medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: C&R Corporation dba C&R Distributors @235-7379.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0018)
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.00/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc. @234-8803/04.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0019)
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc. @234-8803/04.

1 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (SUNT 0020)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Insurance & Business Management Corp. dba Mita Travel @234-7888.

1 ACCOUNTANT (SUNT 0021)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Insurance & Business Management Corp. dba Mita Travel @234-7888.

1 SALES ROUTE DRIVER (SUNT 0022)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Heroge Ent., Inc. dba Mountain Fresh Water @234-3588.

1 WELDER (SUNT 0023)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Heroge Ent., Inc. dba Diesel Equip. Service @234-3588.

1 POWER PLANT OPERATOR (TTH 0020)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.12/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workers compensation by employer; 80% employer & 20% employee for medical. Transportation is self-arranged.

2 ELECTRICIANS (TTH 0021)
Salary:\$3.55-\$6.69/hour. Benefits: \$5.00/mo. barracks maintenance fee; self provided food; free transportation to & from the job site; workers compensation by employer; 80% employer & 20% employee for medical.

1 DIESEL MECHANIC (TTH 0022)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.48/hour. Benefits: \$55.00/mo. housing; self provided food; transportation is self arranged; workers compensation by employer; 80% employer & 20% employee for medical. Contact: Triple L Corporation dba Pacific Power House Co. at tel. no. 322-6183.

2 ELECTRICIANS (TTH 0023)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (TTH 0024)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (TTH 0025)
Salary:\$3.55-\$7.10/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 PROJECT ENGINEER (TTH 0026)
Salary:\$3.55-\$7.50/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 DIESEL MECHANIC (TTH 0027)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

3 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (TTH 0028)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

3 MASONS (TTH 0029)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

2 PROJECT ENGINEERS (TTH 0030)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (TTH 0031)
Salary:\$2,000.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

2 CARPENTERS (TTH 0032)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 DRAFTER (TTH 0033)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.25/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: GPPC, Inc. at tel. no. 234-7900.

1 SALES SUPERVISOR (TTH 0034)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 GRAPHIC ARTIST (TTH 0035)
Salary:\$700.00-\$1,500.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: ICIMA Corporation dba Made is Saipan at tel. no. 322-5123.

1 AUTO PARTS CLERK (TTH 0036)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Rajamsbelle Auto Parts & Service at tel. no. 235-8656.

1 AUTO PARTS MANAGER (TTH 0037)
Salary:\$950.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer.

1 AUTO TINTER (TH 0038)
Salary:\$950.00/month. Benefits: self arranged housing; self provided food; medical and workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Golden Crown Corporation dba Super Saver Auto Supply at tel. no. 235-0129.

1 MANAGER (SUNT 0024)
Salary:\$615.33-\$1,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Ameriana Corporation @234-6913.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (SUNT 0025)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; worker compensation insurance and medical provided. Contact: Bernadita R. Cabrera dba North Shore Marine Sports @483-9991.

WHATZIT Solution:Scrambled eggs

1 STORE MANAGER (SUNT 0026)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical reimbursable & workmen's compensation. Contact: Arenas Enterprises, Inc. dba Oche's Mini Store @233-6850.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (TTH 0039)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: ABA Corporation @322-4447.

1 BAKER HELPER (TTH 0040)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; allowance of \$80.00/monthly; workmen's compensation & medical. K's Company Limited dba Wow Pao Pastries @233-7266.

1 PASTRY BAKER (TTH 0041)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits:\$80.00/monthly allowance. Contact: K's Company Limited @233-7266.

1 BEAUTICIAN (TTH 0042)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical per CNMI Law & workmen's compensation. Contact: Rosa I. Ichihara dba LKR Rosa de Salon @235-7850.

1 OPERATIONS MANAGER (TTH 0043)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Janvier Corporation dba Janvier Tailoring @285-9500.

3 WAITER/WAITRESS (T- 3966)
Salary:\$3.55/HOUR. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employers provided. Contact: Dynamic Core Group, Inc dba Shirley's Coffee Shop @ 235-5379.

Need Properties.
We are looking for properties, house, building, apartment, etc. Interested owners please see Rayanne @ Yuta Office, Afetna Bldg., San Antonio beside Bank of Guam. Please come personally. No phone calls.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

GGES

EGSG

GEGS

SGEG

Find today's solution in this section

© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Cink sinks as O'Hair rallies to win PODS

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Sean O'Hair took advantage of a stunning collapse by Stewart Cink to win the PODS Championship, closing with a 2-under 69 on Sunday to energize his young career and earn a trip to the Masters.

O'Hair hadn't won since his rookie season in 2005 and felt as if he had been going nowhere over the last couple of seasons. But he turned it around on the back nine of Innisbrook with a 30-foot birdie and two par putts that were equally important, building such a margin that he could afford bogey on the last hole for a two-shot victory.

It was his first victory since the John Deere Classic as a 22-year-old rookie in 2005, which got him into the British Open at St. Andrews. This victory sends him to Augusta National next month, and he will move into the top 40 in the world to qualify for the World Golf Championship at Doral in two weeks.

Cink suffered a loss perhaps even more devastating than the Accenture Match Play Championship blowout against Tiger Woods. Cink had a four-shot lead after two holes Sunday, still had control on the back nine, then dropped four shots in a four-hole stretch along the back nine of the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook.

Cink lost the outright lead when his tee shot rolled up against a tree on the par-5 14th, leading to bogey. The only consolation was making a 50-foot birdie on the 17th hole and that allowed him to join a six-way tie for second.

John Senden closed with a 67 and was a runner-up for the second straight year, both times finishing about an hour before the leaders. He tied for second with Cink, Ryuji Imada (68), George McNeill (69), Troy Matteson (69) and Billy Mayfair (72).

Cink closed with a 74 and remains winless since the 2004 BridgeStone Invitational. This was the third time in five tournaments he has played in the final group.

O'Hair finished at 4-under 280, the highest score to win at Innisbrook after a week of whipping wind. But he was the only play to shoot par or better all four rounds, and he saved his best golf for Sunday.

He saved par with putts of 5 and 4 feet on consecutive holes, then buried Cink with a 30-foot putt on the 15th hole and stayed out of trouble the rest of the way.

O'Hair is among only seven players in their 20s with multiple PGA Tour victories, and this was far different from his first, when he closed with a 65 to win the John Deere Classic.

"When I won (the first time), it just kind of happened," O'Hair said, wiping tears from his eyes. "I didn't really appreciate it. I thought I was good enough to do this every year. But it's been such a struggle to get to this point again. This is awesome, and I'm going to enjoy it."

He no longer uses his father-in-law as a caddie, but said Steve Lucas gave me a pep talk after O'Hair missed the cut last week in

the Honda Classic.

O'Hair played the first two rounds under close scrutiny of his coach, Steve Dahlby.

Finally, he has something to show for the work. Cink left the course in darkness Saturday with a two-shot lead, and he kept that mar-

gin when Brandt Snedeker and Billy Mayfair made three pars Sunday morning to complete the third round. Regardless, Cink knew the final round would be wide open. And he had a plan.

"I've got to keep pushing," he said. "My goal is to give no one a chance tomorrow."

He executed that to perfection with birdies on the first two holes. Combined with bogeys by Snedeker and Geoff Ogilvy on the par-5 opening hole, Cink quickly stretched his lead to four shots.

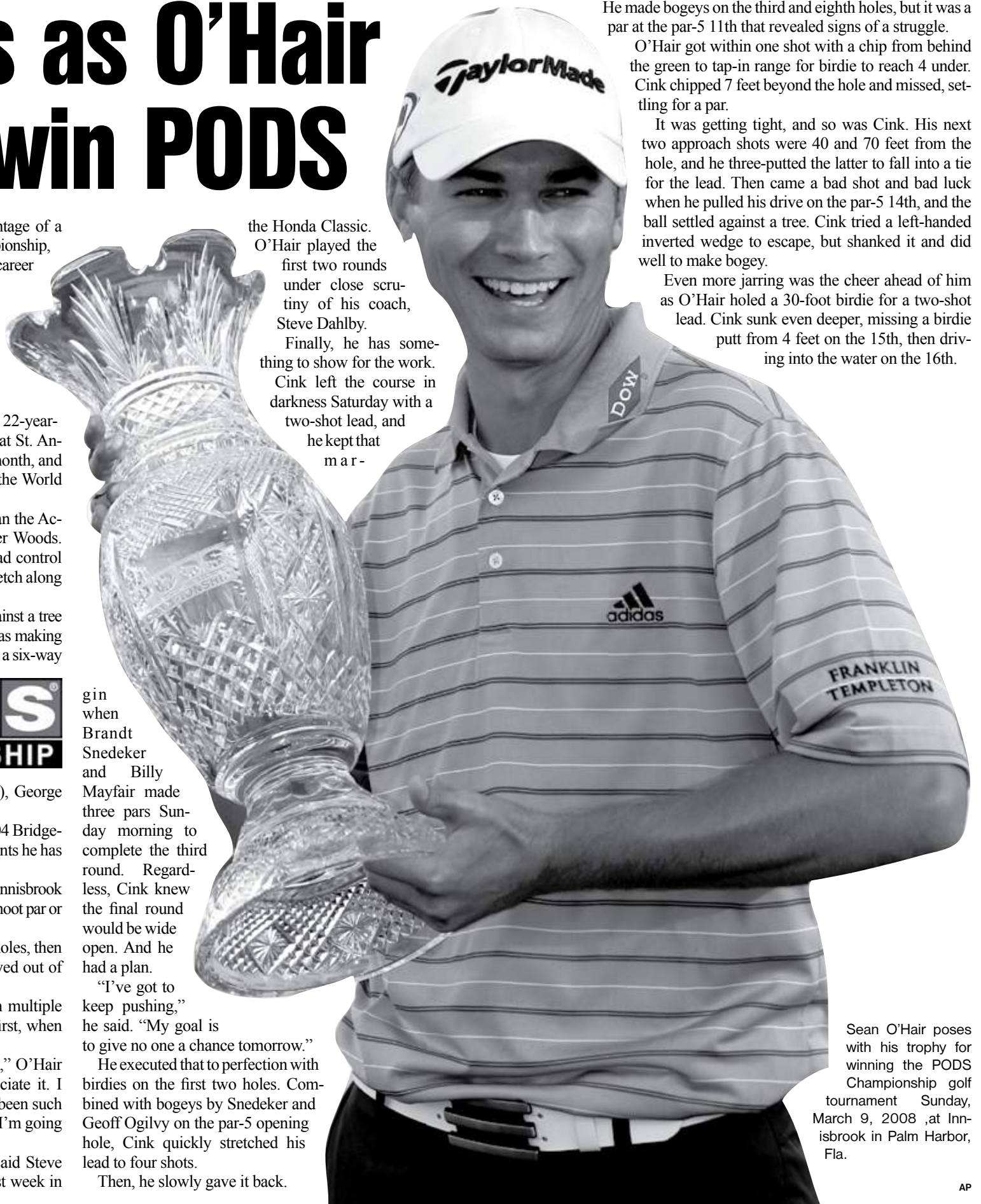
Then, he slowly gave it back.

He made bogeys on the third and eighth holes, but it was a par at the par-5 11th that revealed signs of a struggle.

O'Hair got within one shot with a chip from behind the green to tap-in range for birdie to reach 4 under. Cink chipped 7 feet beyond the hole and missed, settling for a par.

It was getting tight, and so was Cink. His next two approach shots were 40 and 70 feet from the hole, and he three-putted the latter to fall into a tie for the lead. Then came a bad shot and bad luck when he pulled his drive on the par-5 14th, and the ball settled against a tree. Cink tried a left-handed inverted wedge to escape, but shanked it and did well to make bogey.

Even more jarring was the cheer ahead of him as O'Hair holed a 30-foot birdie for a two-shot lead. Cink sunk even deeper, missing a birdie putt from 4 feet on the 15th, then driving into the water on the 16th.



Sean O'Hair poses with his trophy for winning the PODS Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 9, 2008, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

AP



PHOENIX (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal had 14 points and 16 rebounds, and Steve Nash 19 points and 14 assists, helping the Phoenix Suns to a rugged 94-87 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday.

Grant Hill scored 18, including a crucial baseline 20-footer with 1:15 to go, as the Suns showed why they thought they needed O'Neal to compete with the rugged Spurs in the West.

Phoenix outscored the Spurs 14-2 in the final 3:40 to improve to 4-6 since O'Neal joined the team.

Manu Ginobili scored 22 but missed several down the stretch for the Spurs, who lost their second in a row after an 11-game winning streak. Tony Parker added 21 points. Tim Duncan had 17 points and 10 rebounds but was just 6-of-19 shooting.

Amare Stoudemire scored

five of his 16 points in the last three minutes for Phoenix, which had lost its previous three in a row at home. Stoudemire played the final 6:51 and O'Neal the last 5:55 with five fouls.

O'Neal's two blocked shots made him the third player in NBA history to have 26,000 points, 11,500 rebounds and 2,500 blocks. The others are Kareem-Abdul Jabaar and Hakeem Olajuwon.

The intense victory stemmed Phoenix's slide in the standings, pulling them a game ahead of Dallas for the No. 6 spot in the West.

Former Sun Kurt Thomas made an 18-footer to put the Spurs ahead 85-80 with 5:12 to play. A frustrated Suns coach Mike D'Antoni drew a technical moments later, but Ginobili

missed the free throw in a sign of things too come.

Nash's 3-pointer cut it to 85-83 with 3:40 to play. A 24-second clock violation by San Antonio led to Stoudemire's driving shot over Duncan that tied it at 85 with 2:58 left. Stoudemire made one of two free throws with 1:57 to put Phoenix ahead for good, then added two more with 1:57 left San Antonio with an 88-85 lead.

Ginobili's 8-foot floater over both Phoenix big men cut it to 88-87. That set up Hill's shot from the corner that boosted the lead to 90-87. Ginobili missed three in a row, then Raja Bell and Nash put the game away with free throws.

Neither team led by more than six points in the first half or eight in the second. The

Spurs shot just 38 percent.

Raptors 114, SuperSonics 106

At Toronto, Anthony Parker scored 23 points to lead six Raptors in double figures in Toronto's victory over Seattle.

Rasho Nesterovic had 17 points, Andrea Bargnani added 16, Carlos Delfino scored 15, Kris Humphries added 12 and Jason Kapono chipped in with 10.

Chris Wilcox scored 28 points and Kevin Durant had 20 for slumping Seattle, which has lost eight of nine and was on pace to finish with the worst record in franchise history.

76ers 119, Bucks 97

At Milwaukee, Thaddeus Young scored 22 points, Samuel Dalembert added 18 points and

10 rebounds, and Philadelphia coasted to victory.

Philadelphia already had a 14-point lead when it went on a 13-4 run, essentially locking up its season-best third straight road win while shutting down a high-scoring Milwaukee team that had managed at least 100 points in nine of the previous 10 games.

Charlie Villanueva had 25 points and eight rebounds for Milwaukee, which lost for the fifth time in six games.

Pistons 116, Bulls 109

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups matched a season high with 34 points, Richard Hamilton scored 23 and Detroit clinched its seventh straight playoff berth.

Tayshaun Prince added 21 points for the Pistons, who ended

a five-game losing streak against Chicago and prevented the Bulls from sweeping the season series for the first time since 1995-96.

Ben Gordon led Chicago with 27 points and Luol Deng added 21.

Kings 114, Lakers 113

At Los Angeles, Sacramento's Beno Udrih made two free throws with 4 seconds remaining, and Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant missed an 18-foot jumper at the buzzer.

Udrih finished with 25 points for Sacramento, winning for just the second time in nine games, a stretch that included a defeat by the Lakers in Sacramento on Tuesday. Kevin Martin added 21 points for the Kings, and Ron Artest had 17.

Bryant scored 26 as the Lakers lost only their second in 15 games. Pau Gasol had 25 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for Los Angeles, and Lamar Odom had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Favre could be a 'ghost' in retirement



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Even in retirement, Brett Favre is still looking for big game. The Green Bay Packers icon apparently spent the first days of the rest of his life hunting wild boar.

Former Favre teammate and close friend Frank Winters said Favre sent him a text message during the hunting trip he took after holding his retirement news conference Thursday - a preview of the laid-back life former teammates expect Favre to settle into now that he has hung up his helmet.

While the idea of Favre going to work for a television network is popular, Winters and others think he's simply going to disappear for a while.

"I really don't think he'll really get into that stuff right now," said Winters, who was in Green Bay on Saturday for the Packers' annual fan fest at Lambeau Field. "Maybe a few years from now. Who knows?"

Favre cited fatigue as the reason for his retirement, and said he didn't have any plans for the future—other than to rest and get out of the spotlight.

Favre's favorite receiver in recent years, Donald Driver, laughed when he heard the quarterback bring up the idea of coming back to Green Bay for a ceremonial pregame coin toss next season.

"First thing I said is, 'He ain't coming back for no coin toss,'" Driver said. "He's going to be a ghost. That's the thing—he has to get away from the game for a little while."

New Green Bay Packers president and chief executive officer Mark Murphy said Favre hasn't officially filed his retirement paperwork with the NFL yet, but only considers that step a formality.

And while Driver wouldn't completely rule out a Michael Jordan-style comeback for Favre—"I don't know," Driver said. "It'd be hard to say."—his hunch is that Favre is finished with football.

"I think in his mind right now, he's probably said, 'If I ever leave the game, I'm done. I'm not coming back,'" Driver said. "And we make jokes all the time. He said, 'When I'm done, you'll be the only one that can find me,' because I know exactly where he lives at."

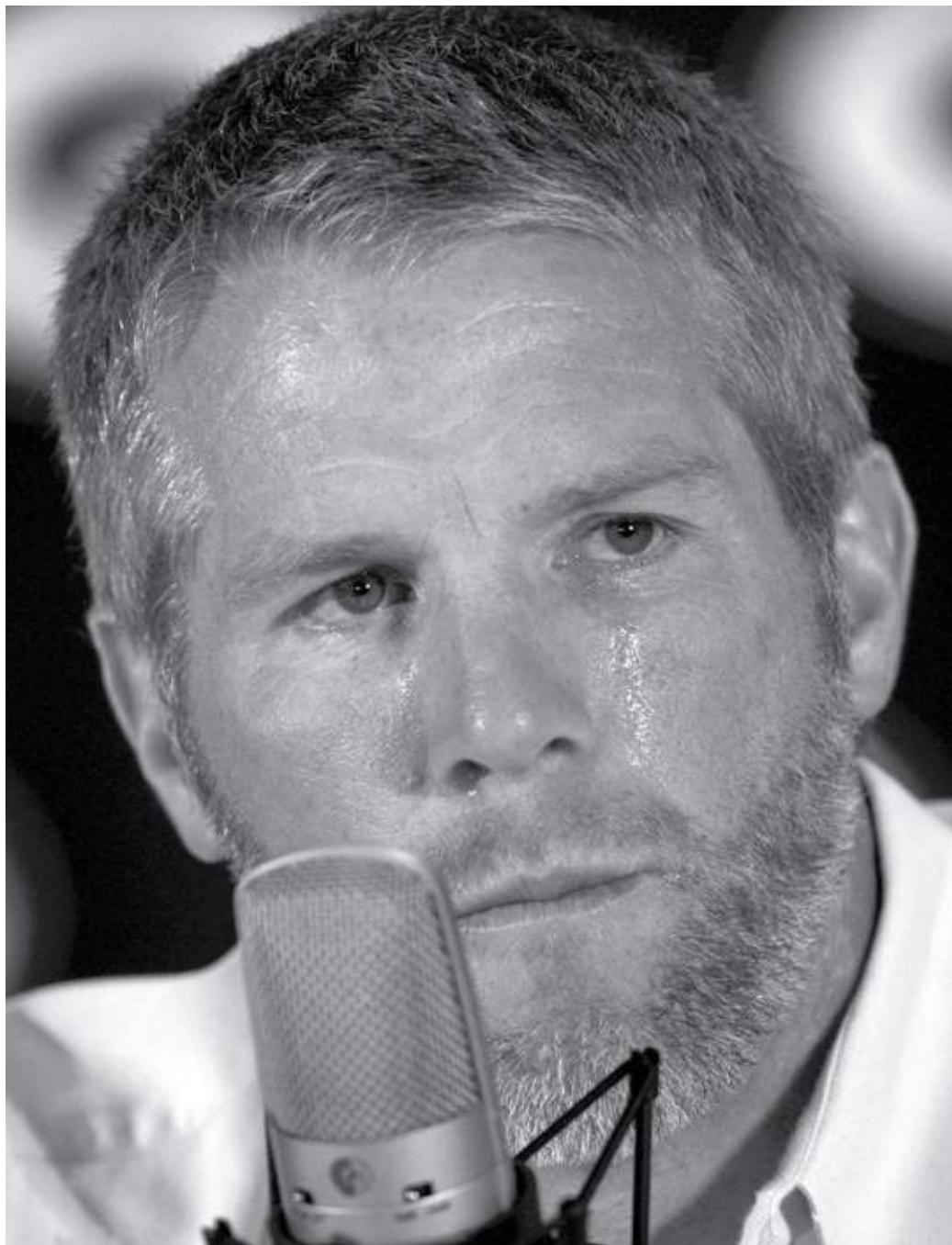
Murphy, a former All-Pro safety for the Washington Redskins, said retirement can be a tough adjustment for athletes.

"I think he really wants to take some time to just kind of get away from everything," Murphy said. "And as a former player, I think the transition away from playing professional athletics and playing in the NFL, it can be difficult. And every circumstance is a little bit different. But I think the hardest thing will be those games in the fall."

That's when retirement hit Murphy the hardest.

"I didn't really miss training camp, didn't really miss the minicamps," Murphy said. "But when the games came around in the fall, that's when it really becomes difficult to see your teammates and friends playing. But people have gone through it. And he obviously thought it through. He really knew that it was time for him to step down."

Former Favre teammate Marco Rivera said Favre might struggle to come to grips with the



Tears roll down the face of Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre as he cries during a press conference announcing that he was officially retiring from football on Thursday, March 6, 2008, at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis.

"weird" notion of not having to live within a regimented NFL schedule, but that feeling will fade.

"After a few months, you start to settle down," Rivera said. "You kind of just relax and say, 'OK'—start making some phone calls, get in touch with some of the people you knew in the past and move forward."

Driver was surprised when he heard of Favre's decision because he never saw any sign that the NFL's only three-time MVP was fatigued during the season.

"He never showed it toward us," Driver said. "Every week, he was preparing himself for the best game he can play. I never saw it, sitting next to him, talking to him."

Driver was in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, celebrating his anniversary when he heard the news last week. Driver hasn't spoken to Favre yet—but did talk to him after the final game of the season, just in case.

"I told him before he left after the last game, I said, 'When my time comes to retire, I just hope I have the same respect from the media, the fans, and everyone else around the world that you have,'" Driver said. "He smiled and said, 'You think I've got a lot?' I said, 'You have plenty.'"

Winters said Favre wouldn't have much trouble finding other things to do in retirement—like "knocking down trees and stuff" on his tractor.

"Sooner or later, you feel enough is enough," Winters said. "No matter how much money you make, you want to get away from it."

Selig: No plans to read Bonds' testimony



PHOENIX (AP)—Bud Selig has no plans to read any of Barry Bonds' grand jury testimony that was ordered released by a judge just over a week ago.

"No, I don't think so," Selig said Saturday. "I think all the lawyers around me will but I don't think there's any reason for me at this time."

Bonds, the unemployed home run king, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on four counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of justice. The indictment accuses him of lying to a grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative's involvement in the distribution of steroids and other illegal performance-enhancing substances.

Bonds, who played 15 seasons with San Francisco, was not re-signed by the Giants after last season and has not been signed by another club.

He has denied ever knowingly using steroids or other illegal performance enhancers.

Selig spoke during an informal meeting with reporters at Maryvale Baseball Park, where the Milwaukee Brewers, the team he once owned, played the Kansas City Royals.

Selig also said he hasn't decided what he will do about players mentioned in the Mitchell Report on drugs and continues to review them on a case-by-case basis.

"I haven't made any decisions on that yet," Selig said. "We are working to finish off all of Sen. (George) Mitchell's recommendations, which will really tighten the program up and somehow I'm hoping one of these days that I can escape a press conference without any questions on this."

One of the players mentioned in the report, Royals slugger Jose Guillen, was suspended for

15 days for violation of baseball's drug policy last December, literally hours after Kansas City signed him to a three-year, \$36 million contract.

Guillen, who is expected to play on Sunday for the first time this spring, has been linked in media reports to the buying of thousands of dollars worth of human growth hormone. He appealed immediately and an arbitrator's decision is expected before the end of spring training.

Selig can review or rescind that suspension, but did not discuss what he might do with Guillen's case. One of the recommendations that the Mitchell Report made was that nobody named be punished.

Selig said that his wish is that when he finishes making his decisions, that it will close discussion about it.

"I don't know," Selig said. "I hope so."

NFL, Walsh eye deal for spygate material

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Walsh, the former New England Patriots employee said to have tapes of illegal spying by the team, is close to an agreement to turn over information to the NFL.

The NFL said in a statement Sunday night that in the last week, lawyers for Walsh and the league have made "substantial progress toward an agreement that will allow Mr. Walsh to be interviewed."

"Both sides are optimistic that any remaining issues can be addressed successfully and they are committed to reaching a full agreement as promptly as possible," the statement added.

Walsh, a golf pro in Hawaii, has been seeking protection from lawsuits and other legal action, whether by the Patriots or other parties. The two sides have been negotiating for almost a month after reports surfaced just before the Super Bowl that Walsh videotaped a walk-through practice of the St. Louis Rams before the 2002 title game. It was won by the Patriots 20-17 over the Rams, who were favored by more than two touchdowns.

Walsh's lawyer, Michael N. Levy of the Washington firm of McKee Nelson, confirmed Sunday night that an agreement was near.

"I have consistently asked the NFL to provide appropriate legal protections for Mr. Walsh," Levy said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

"In recent discussions I have had with the league's lawyer, we have made substantial progress toward this end, and I am hopeful that we will be able to craft an agreement with the necessary legal protections so Mr. Walsh can come forward with the truth."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has said Walsh was not interviewed as part of the league's investigation into "Spygate," which involved the league confiscating tapes from a Patriots employee who recorded the New York Jets' defensive signals from the sideline during the opening game of the 2007 season.

Six confiscated tapes and other documents pertaining to the Patriots' taping were subsequently destroyed by the league. Goodell has defended the destruction of the tapes.

As a result of that investigation, New England coach Bill Belichick was fined \$500,000 and the team was fined \$250,000 and forfeited its 2008 first-round draft choice. That pick would have been 31st overall, but New England still has the seventh overall pick, obtained in a trade with San Francisco last year.

Goodell has also met with Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who asked pointed questions about taping of both the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles. The Patriots beat the Eagles in the 2005 Super Bowl and the Steelers in two AFC championship games.

"As commissioner Goodell has repeatedly emphasized, 'Nobody wants to hear from Matt Walsh more than the National Football League,' NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Sunday night.

In addition to the negotiations over Walsh's testimony, Willie Gary, who played in that game for the Rams, filed suit in New Orleans last month accusing the Patriots of fraud, unfair trade practices and engaging in a "pattern of racketeering." Three fans joined in the suit.

Specter subsequently said that his interest might be covered by that suit.

"I think now that the lawsuits have been started, that I got the ball rolling, and the plaintiffs' lawyers are picking it up," he said.

Mixed fortunes for NMI bets in PXC XIV

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



J a y s o n Tarkong and Leeroy Sablan encountered mixed fortunes in their respective campaigns in PXC XIV: Evolution last Friday at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao. Tarkong won his match against John Ogo to improve to a 7-2 record, while Sablan lost

to Guam's Thomas "The Saint" Calvo. Tarkong, fighting out of Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym, was supposed to fight James Ikenur but organizers replaced his opponent at the last-minute. The Tarkong-Ogo match was the second featured fight of the night's 10-match fight card. Tarkong defeated Ogo in the first round via a rear-naked choke. According to a report in the *Guam Pacific Daily News*,



Tarkong was aggressive from the start and took down Ogo early in the first round. While down on the mat, Ogo exposed his back and Tarkong capitalized on that applying the choke to force his opponent to tap out. It was a different story in Marianas Elite's Sablan's match against Calvo, which is the ninth

scheduled fight of the night. The match was also decided by a rear-naked choke in the first round, but Calvo was at the receiving end of that move. Sablan also stared aggressively opening up the fight with a jump kick towards Calvo. Calvo, however, was prepared for his opponent's attack grabbing Sablan in midair and slamming him down to the mat. He moved quickly, while on the ground using a side control to land several knees to Sablan's head. Sablan tried to get out of his predicament but Calvo did not budge securing a hook to force his opponent to tap out. Tetsuji Kato, Giovanni "Pal-

axi" Sablan, and Zalaka's Andrew Sablan were also scheduled to see action in PXC XIV: Evolution but their fights were cancelled. In other news, Trench Warz and Rites of Passage organizer Cuki Alvarez informed local fight fans on Saipan that the Rites of Passage IV: The Uproar DVD is now out and can be purchased at the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym. Alvarez said the DVD is a great gift idea or collection for all MMA fans. It's also a chance for those fans who missed the Feb. 16 event to watch it on video. For more information, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 483-4662.

Clinic in lieu of V-ball games today



The 2007-2008 Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association Indoor Winter League will have no games today as newly appointed league coordinator Elias Rangamar wants to hold a coaches and referees clinic first.

Rangamar, in an interview with the Saipan Tribune, said since he will takeover from former NMIVA president Jon Cramer in running the league he would like the competition organized right—and the first order of business under his reign is the coaches and referees clinic. The longtime Division of

Sports and Recreation staff, who is also heavily involved in the basketball and athletics federations, said the clinic will start at 6:30pm sharp tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Games originally scheduled today would have had Home Boys taking on Menudo in the first game, Fanians squaring off against Ma

Numel'u in the second, and Ol'Aces challenging the CH-Hammer in the third—all in the men's division. Matches in the women's side, meanwhile, were supposed to be Beach Jammers playing Seikid and Pikan Gaga opposite Ta Chagi. For more information about tonight's clinic, call Rangamar at 664-2502. *(Mark Rabago)*

2008

From Page 28

Pungilug added 17, 14, 14, and 13 each. Marlon Bamba and Peter Iguel remained Hafadai's inside-outside attack as they combined for almost half of their team's points. Bamba had a season-high 41 points and 10 rebounds for his sixth double-double per-

formance while Iguel added 28 points and seven rebounds. Defending champion Aqua Resort Club won by default against Aquarius Beach Tower after their opponents only had three players suiting up for their game. The loss was Aquarius' ninth straight. The longtime Division of

lentino 14, Tudela 14, Pungilug 13, Fernandez 6. **Hafadai Beach Hotel 91** – Bamba 41, Iguel 28, Nedlic 7, Guinto 6, Olaitiman 6, Calayag 2, Mendoza 1. **Scoring by quarters:** 23-11, 53-38, 82-71, 105-91. **Referees:** Connie Camacho and Dado Vistal. **Second Game** **Fiesta-Grand Hotel 101**

– Esdreton 36, Sanciangco 27, Manglona 14, Ong 9, Opone 8, Galag 3, David 2, Sabino 2. **Hyatt Regency Saipan 94** – Tenorio 23, Aquino 12, Dillay 12, Magno 11, Mendoza 11, Arreza 9, Umali 8, Yamamoto 6, Vargas 2. **Scoring by quarters:** 27-23, 44-52, 74-73, 101-94. Referees: Arnold Mesa and Jesse Pabula.

THIRD

From Page 28

in Guam last year. Wonenberg placed second to Bennett in the Guam tournament with a personal best time of 28.30 seconds. She said at first she was surprised that she won again. "I knew competition in the CNMI is growing and I was unsure who would claim the [award].

The other athletes are all very good in what they do and I'd think it would be a [tougher] decision to choose the [2008] Athlete of the Year." Wonenberg said CNMI athletes have been performing well in various on- and off-island competitions. "Competition is growing and so are the interests of others in various sports. Also, going off-island and competing in different countries made this year different from the last two."

She said that all the nominees gave their best performances in their chosen sport. "I wish them the best of luck in their future competitions and hope they continue to train and grow in the sport they find such passion in." Wonenberg said she was not the only one elated with her award, as her parents too were proud of her recent achievement. "My parents have always been supportive of my involvement in sports. They are great parents and I am lucky to be

able to compete in what I like and be able to rely on their support." "I also wanted to win [the award] especially for my parents," she ended. Wonenberg said she will be training harder this year so she could represent the CNMI well in various international tournaments abroad. "I've actually been injured this past month and had to take a break from any intense practice, but I will resume my training this week."

PSL

From Page 28

nerves of steel to complete their title-clinching win. Vertudez was joined by teammate Edward Angelo Salas, SIS' Lucas Knecht, Seventh Day Adventist School's Michi Yoshida, Saipan Community School's Justin Poon, and Reynald Cabaltica of the Knights. Vertudez was named the boys' division most valuable player.

In the girls' division, SIS teammates Zoe Jewell and Amber Roberts were named to the All-School team and were joined by GCA's Ricci Pamin-tuan and SCS' Han Mil Oh. Jewell was named the season MVP after leading the SIS Lady Geckos to a 37-23 triumph over the GCA Lady Eagles. Jewell scored 14 points in that win as SIS went undefeated this season. SIS placed third in the boys while SCS duplicated the feat in

the girls division. SDA was the first recipient of the perpetual sportsmanship trophy, which will go around to various campuses depending on the winning school every season. Aside from Vertudez and Salas, other members of the Eagles were Genesis Mamaril, Michael Moran Jr., Bryan Kim, Dae Min Jeon, Paulo Nautan, Sho Tabei, Suk Koo Kim, Jamin Dela Cruz, Garry Santos, Jonathan Salas, and Max Camacho. The Lady Eagles, meanwhile,

were composed of Pamintuan, Agatha Cyril Marasigan, Antonette Labansa, Kristen Pangelinan, Kristine Molina, Mia Pauline Reyes, Joice Santos, Angela Mamaril, Kalie O'Connor, Jomicah Cabrera, and Kathy Arriola. The members of the Knights were Sky Li, Roy Salas, Reynald Cabaltica, James De-leon Guerrero, Matthew Igitol, Philip Sablan, Victor Sablan, Kevin Kim, Aydan Gagaring, Bela Baka, Jonathan Sanchez, and Jacob Delos Reyes.

KIM

From Page 28

The win allowed Rock Steady to join the Korean Dreams on top of the standings as both teams hold a 2-0 record, while the loss was the second straight in as many games for Komoro to join the Tigers at the cellar. Byron Kaipat went 3-for-5 scoring two runs with two dou-

bles, a triple, and two RBIs to lead the Rock Steady offense. He struck out twice in the game. Ton Manibusan only went 1-for-4 but had the season's first inside-the-park home run in the sixth inning. Mike Taitano, Nick San Nicolas, and John Camacho alternated on the mound for Rock Steady as they matched Kim's impressive pitching. Taitano had his first start this

season lasting for three innings allowing one earned run on three hits with four strikeouts and two walks before being replaced by San Nicolas in the bottom of the fourth. San Nicolas earned the win after pitching four shutout innings giving up one hit, while striking out nine batters and walking two more. Camacho closed out for Rock Steady and gave up three hits with no strikeouts, and two walks. He

allowed one run, which is un-earned after Ha Hyun scored in the ninth on a shortstop Oliver Secharmidal error. Kim Jae Young, who was hit by pitch, scored Komoro's other run in the second inning on a Hyun single. The Dreams were aiming for their third straight win when they played against the Rangers at press time. Results were not yet available as of this writing.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	49	12	.803	—
Toronto	34	28	.548	15 1/2
Philadelphia	30	33	.476	20
New Jersey	26	37	.413	24
New York	18	45	.286	32
Southeast Division				
Orlando	40	24	.625	—
Washington	30	32	.484	9
Atlanta	26	36	.419	13
Charlotte	24	39	.381	15 1/2
Miami	11	50	.180	27 1/2
Central Division				
x-Detroit	46	17	.730	—
Cleveland	36	27	.571	10
Chicago	25	38	.397	21
Indiana	24	39	.381	22
Milwaukee	23	40	.365	23
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	43	19	.694	—
Houston	42	20	.677	1
New Orleans	42	20	.677	1
Dallas	40	23	.635	3 1/2
Memphis	15	47	.242	28
Northwest Division				
Utah	42	22	.656	—
Denver	37	25	.597	4
Portland	33	30	.524	8 1/2
Seattle	16	47	.254	25 1/2
Minnesota	14	48	.226	27
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	44	19	.698	—
Phoenix	41	22	.651	3
Golden State	39	23	.629	4 1/2
Sacramento	28	35	.444	16
L.A. Clippers	20	41	.328	23
x-clinched playoff spot				
Yesterday's Games				
Toronto 114, Seattle 106				
Philadelphia 119, Milwaukee 97				
Phoenix 94, San Antonio 87				
Detroit 116, Chicago 109				
Sacramento 114, L.A. Lakers 113				
PODS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES				
PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP)—Scores Sunday from the PODS Championship, a \$5.3 million (€3.5 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,340-yard, par-71 Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club's Copperhead course:				
Sean O'Hair	69-71-71-69	280		
John Senden	67-74-74-67	282		
Ryuji Imada	72-70-72-68	282		
George McNeill	70-72-71-69	282		
Troy Matteson	70-72-71-69	282		
Billy Mayfair	68-71-71-72	282		
Stewart Cink	66-73-69-74	282		
Rod Pampling	70-71-73-69	283		
Brandt Snedeker	69-68-73-73	283		
Lee Janzen	65-74-75-70	284		
Stuart Appleby	66-73-74-71	284		
Tom Pernice, Jr.	67-73-71-73	284		
Geoff Ogilvy	69-72-69-74	284		
Robert Allenby	70-73-73-69	285		
Justin Rose	70-74-71-70	285		
Steve Marino	70-74-71-70	285		
Mathew Goggin	72-72-71-70	285		
Corey Pavin	75-70-69-71	285		
Kevin Sutherland	74-68-70-73	285		
Bart Bryant	65-74-73-73	285		
Mark Calcavecchia	69-70-73-73	285		
Steve Stricker	70-74-75-66	285		
Jeff Maggert	66-72-77-71	286		
Carl Pettersson	67-75-74-70	286		
Charlie Wi	69-73-74-70	286		
Hunter Mahan	72-70-73-71	286		
Ryan Armour	69-73-72-72	286		
Rich Beem	69-74-71-72	286		
Nick Watney	68-74-77-67	286		
Michael Letzig	69-71-75-72	287		
Jerry Kelly	67-75-74-71	287		
Nathan Green	67-77-71-72	287		
Kenny Perry	66-75-75-71	287		
Bill Haas	70-73-72-72	287		
Heath Slocum	69-71-76-71	287		
Daniel Chopra	70-72-74-72	288		
Shigeki Maruyama	69-71-74-74	288		
Tim Petrovic	72-68-74-74	288		
Shane Bertsch	71-74-73-70	288		
Jonathan Byrd	67-76-70-75	288		
Chez Reavie	70-73-76-69	288		
Fred Couples	69-74-73-73	289		
Paul Casey	67-72-75-75	289		
Ben Crane	71-73-73-72	289		
Steve Flesch	72-73-72-72	289		
Robert Garrigus	70-74-75-70	289		
Chad Campbell	71-72-73-74	290		
Patrick Sheehan	69-73-74-74	290		
Alex Cejka	69-72-73-76	290		
Mark Wilson	72-73-73-72	290		
Todd Hamilton	70-74-76-70	290		
D.J. Trahan	68-74-74-75	291		
Nicholas Thompson	67-75-74-75	291		
Lucas Glover	71-72-74-74	291		
Steve Elkington	73-68-73-77	291		
Robert Gamez	75-69-74-73	291		
Bob Estes	71-73-74-73	291		
Stephen Ames	71-74-73-73	291		
Matt Jones	72-72-73-75	292		
Peter Lonard	69-75-73-75	292		
Billy Andrade	69-74-74-76	293		
Olin Browne	70-73-75-75	293		
James Driscoll	71-74-73-75	293		
Nick Flanagan	70-75-74-74	293		
Charles Howell III	71-74-75-74	294		
Trevor Immelman	72-73-75-74	294		
Tag Ridings	70-70-75-80	295		
Ken Duke	70-75-75-75	295		
Frank Lickliter II	68-73-75-80	296		
Jeff Overton	68-73-79-76	296		
Derek Lamely	70-74-73-82	299		

LOCAL SCORES				
SML Standings				
Korean Dreams	2	0		
Rock Steady	2	0		
Tanapag Falcons	1	0		
D9ers	1	0		
Ford Rangers	0	1		
Kabur	0	1		
Komoro	0	2		
Tigers	0	2		
HANMI Cup Standings				
Fiesta-Grand Hotel	10	1		
Pacific Islands Club	7	3		
Hyatt Regency Saipan	7	4		
Aqua Resort Club	7	4		
Hafadai Beach Hotel	3	6		
Saipan World Resort	2	8		
Aquarius Beach Tower	0	9		

Local teams conquer XTERRA Saipan



Far left, the champion relay team of the 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship, from left, Rezne Wong, Ronald Villafria, and Rene Calage pose in front of the finish line at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

MARK RABAGO

Left, two of Team Manatee's members— John Jones, left, and Jim Arenovski—hold up their banner while waiting for third member, Michael Stewart, finish the 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

The runner-up relay team of the 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship, from left, Jerry Diaz, Kai Staal, and Russ Quinn pose in front of the finish line last at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.



JON PEREZ

Team SaipanCell, from left, Jerry Diaz, Russ Quinn, and Kai Staal show off their wigs in last Saturday's 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan awards banquet.



JON PEREZ

John Douglas carefully goes down from a small opening in the trail run in the 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship.



JON PEREZ

Fujio Miyachi ducks while inside a cave in last Saturday's 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship.



JON PEREZ

From left, Tim and Tina Goodwin pose with Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica during last Saturday's 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship award banquet at the Pacific Islands Club.



JON PEREZ

Ronald Villafria negotiates the jungle in last Saturday's 6th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship.

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Relay teams also conquered the treacherous 7th XTERRA Saipan course with six squads answering the call and competed last Saturday in the men's and mixed team relay division.

The men's team of Rezne Wong, Rene Calage, and Ronald Villafria was the top squad in XTERRA Saipan's seventh edition when they completed the full course in three hours, 40 minutes, and 49 seconds.

They had a comfortable lead of almost 20 minutes to the second place squad composed of Kai

Staal, Russ Quinn, and Jerry Diaz, which had a combined time of 3:59:19.

Wong anchored his team's impressive finish when he was the first swimmer after the 1.5-kilometer swim leg in 19:13, even coming in first against pro Andrew Noble, who logged in 19:27 in the swim.

Calage then rode the 30-km muddy bike course and survived several crashes before returning to Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park in 2:20:24.

With Calage's team lagging behind after Quinn finished ahead of him, 2:08:50, it was up to Villafria to pick up the pace. The Coco's Restaurant employee faced a tall order since inaugural Coffee Trail Run winner Fujio Myachi was the runner in

another team.

Villafria kept his pace but continuously watched his back since Miyachi was a few meters away from him. Villafria managed to survive Miyachi's challenge and completed the 12-km trail run in 1:01:12.

Miyachi finished in 1:02:01 but his team-up with Cooper Graf, who did the swim (22:08) and bike (3:03:13) legs, finished third with a combined time of 4:27:22.

Staal had a 21:17 in the swim, Quinn biked for 2:08:50, and Diaz conquered the trail run in 1:29:12 to place second overall with a time of 3:59:19.

The team of Dawn Hammermeister, Grant Pearson, and John Douglas topped the mixed division. Hammermeister swam for 26 minutes, Pearson biked for 2:37:22 while Douglas did the trail in

1:14:31. They were the third best team overall with their combined time of 4:17:22.

The husband-and-wife duo of Tim and Tina Goodwin placed second in the mixed team and fifth overall with a combined time of 5:27:28. Tim did the swim (25:35) while his wife completed the bike (3:06:20) and trail run (1:55:32).

Team Manatee, composed of Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski, John Jones, and Saipan Swim Club president Michael Stewart, placed fourth in the men's division and sixth overall (6:32:18).

Arenovski did the swim leg finishing in 32:23 while Jones completed the bike course in 3:48:57 and Stewart returned at the AMP in 2:10:58 after finishing the 12-km run.



Mixed fortunes for NMI bets in PXC XIV

Jayson Tarkong and Leeroy Sablan encountered mixed fortunes in their respective campaigns in PXC XIV: Evolution last Friday at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao.

26

Saipan Tribune Sports

Cink sinks as O'Hair rallies to win PODS

Sean O'Hair took advantage of a stunning collapse by Stewart Cink to win the PODS Championship, closing with a 2-under 69 on Sunday to energize his young career and earn a trip to the Masters. 24



28 TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

2008 pennant within Fiesta-Grand's reach

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League pennant is within Fiesta-Grand Hotel's reach after pulling off a hard-earned 101-94 win against Hyatt Regency Saipan Sunday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was Fiesta-Grand's ninth straight win and 10th overall against one loss in the HANMI Cup, which is being sponsored by Titans Chivas Life, PTI, Coca-Cola Bottlers Micronesia, and Western Sales Trading Company.

The win also avenged Fiesta-Grand's 86-102 setback against Hyatt on Dec. 9, 2007.

The loss dropped Hyatt to a tie with defending champion Aqua Resort Club from third to fourth place with both teams holding similar 7-4 marks.

Earlier, Pacific Islands Club used a barrage of 3-pointers to cruise to a 105-91 win over Hafadai Beach Hotel to climb from fourth to second place with a 7-3 card.

It was a seesaw battle with both team's battling several lead changes and deadlocks before Fiesta-Grand pulled it through in the second half outscoring Hyatt in the playoff period, 29-21.

Elmer Esdreton was

instrumental in Fiesta-Grand's comeback, helping his team rally back from an eight-point halftime deficit, 44-52. He scored 23 of his game-high 36 points in the second half with 12 coming at the free



throw line.

Esdreton went 13-of-15 at the stripe and was fouled a number of times in the second half even going 7-for-7 in the fourth quarter. He also had seven rebounds, two assists, and five steals in the game.

Ryan Sanciangco scattered 27 points to back up Esdreton, while Ryan Manglona finished with 14 markers to go with his six rebounds.

Steven Teno-rio's 23 points led

Hyatt's losing cause as Fiesta-Grand limited regular scorers Bernard Aquino, Krisgel Arreza, Edmark Mendoza, and Mike Umali.

The usually high-scoring duo of Aquino and Mendoza was held to a combined 23 points, while Arreza, Hyatt's fourth-quarter man, was limited to nine and Umali, who is also a reliable shooter, only totaled in eight points.

Dexter Dillay and Abaya Magno combined for 23 points and 14 rebounds as they made up for their teammates' off night.

PIC, meanwhile, drained 16 3-pointers to score a 105-91 thrashing of the upset conscious Hafadai side to improve to a 7-3 record.

James Abuy led PIC's 3-point field day, burying four from downtown to end up with 23 points to go with his six rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

Butch Kaipat backed him up with 18 points, four rebounds, seven assists, and three steals, while J.R. Ngeskebei, Raymund Tolentino, Derrick Tudela, and Marino

See 2008 on Page 26

Ryan Sanciangco drives to the hoop in this file photo taken in one of their games in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

OSCAR YEMA

PSL honors JV's top performers

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Private School League honored the top performers of its 2008 Junior Varsity Basketball League season in a simple ceremony after Friday's boys and girls division finals at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Leading the list of awardees was Grace Christian Academy Eagles' Lester Vertudez, who led his team in beating the Mt. Carmel School Knights in the finals.

The GCA Eagles, which played in both division finals but could not complete a sweep, overcame a slow start in the first half to pull-off a 62-54 win.

Vertudez scored 12 of his team-high 22 points in the second half to lead GCA's breakaway in the latter stages of the game. The Eagles led by as many as 14 points and even allowed the Knights to trim the lead to six but showed

See PSL on Page 26

Kim sets SML record in Ks in losing effort

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Roque Kim set a new Saipan Major League record in strikeouts but failed to lead his Komoro team to victory as the D9ers scored an 8-2 win in last Thursday's game in the

3rd Annual Budweiser-SML at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Kim, who pitched in no relief, had 23 strikeouts to break the 20-year old mark of 20 set by Joe Atalig in the early years of the SML. He even pitched three scoreless innings from third to fifth. He also gave up nine hits with six earned runs and four walks.

See KIM on Page 26

Third one's special for Jacque

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Rising multi-event princess Jacque Wonenberg considers her third Female Student Athlete of the Year

award as more special than the previous two she won in 2006 and 2005.

Wonenberg, who is being groomed by Northern Mariana Athletics officials to try pentathlon, won for the third straight time receiving her award in last week's annual sports banquet at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

"Competition for the title is getting harder. I've tried my hardest in 2007 and improved the most. I feel I've gained the most experience that year from all the off-island competitions I've been to," said Wonenberg.

Wonenberg was off-island for most of the year seeing action in the Australian Youth Olympics in Sydney and various athletics competitions on Guam.

But her most memorable trip was when she competed in the 5th World Youth Championships held at the SSK Vitkovic Stadium in Ostrava, Czech Republic, where she set a new personal best and at the same time shattering the CNMI national record in the 200m run.

She competed in the fourth heat of the 200m run on that Friday the 13th and finished seventh with an official time of 27.74 seconds to break the 27.89 seconds set by teammate Yvonne Bennett during the High School All Island Track & Field Meet

See THIRD on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Jacque Wonenberg hugs her 2007 Female Athlete of the Year award in last week's annual sports banquet of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Top, Junior Varsity boys All-School team, from left, Lester Vertudez, Edward Angelo Salas, Lucas Knecht, Michi Yoshida, Justin Poon, and Reynald Cabaltica.

JON PEREZ



Left, Junior Varsity girls All-School team, Ricci Pamintuan, Amber Roberts, and Zoe Jewell. Not in photo is Han Mil Oh.

JON PEREZ